

the fool." See that you realise an acquaintance with God, as your own God and Father through Christ. Draw your happiness from his favour, from an approbation of, and delight in his character, and from a conformity to his will. Look at sin, as it is presented to you, in the sacrifice by which your redemption is purchased. And then, so far from envying those who are eagerly running hither and thither in pursuit of earthly pleasures, you will regard them with compassion. You will see that they are set in "slippery places," ready to be "cast down into destruction." And to such persons themselves, I would say: The midnight revel and pleasures of a like kind, are not in themselves more unallowed than they are out of season for *you*. You are exhausting the patience, and provoking the vengeance of God, and are separated from the fiery abyss of wrath, only by that frail partition of flesh that incloses your immortal spirit. Is it for you to sport, and sing, and dance, as though you were secure even against the possibility of future danger. Solomon does say that there is a "time to mourn," and sure I am, this is the time for you to mourn—to mourn over the folly—the guilt—the pollution—and the ruin of sin. Improve this present time thus to mourn. "Turn unto the Lord with all your heart, and with fasting, and with weeping, and with mourning." And so happily you shall know, in a sense you yet know not, that there is also "a time to dance"—a time to leap for joy. You may then say with the Psalmist, "Thou hast turned for me my mourning into dancing: thou hast put off my sack-cloth and girded me with gladness." For certainly, "they that sow in tears shall reap in joy."—AMEN.