

ritual foes without the unremitting use of the all-conquering weapon, *the Sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God*. Let us take for example the man after God's own heart, who in the space of one Psalm mentions the word of God more than one hundred and seventy times, and who made it a light to his feet and a lamp to his path—let us not only put it into the hands of our children, and those committed to our care, but by teaching them its Heavenly nature and incalculable use as much as in us lies, imprint its sacred contents upon their memories and entreat God to to implant it in their hearts. It is recorded of that humble and persecuted people that dwelt alone and was not reckoned among the Nations, (the Waldenses) that their children were much of their time employed in committing to memory chapters out of every book in the Bible, and that it was not uncommon for them to have the whole of the New Testament by rote, together with the Psalms of David, and other parts of the Old Testament—let us go and do likewise. Do we complain for want of Spiritual health?—let us enquire whether we have attended to the prescriptions of our great Family Physician, Jesus Christ, “*Enter into thy closet and pray to thy Father which is in Heaven!*” Are we anxiously desiring the Salvation of those who are ungodly around us, and wishing to see the borders of Zion enlarged with converts from our own families and those of our neighbours—let us then not forget that our gracious God condescends to work by means, and where shall we find those means but within the walls of his Church—let us ask ourselves the question, are we using those means to the utmost of our ability—is there not a possibility that the word of God by the mouth of the Apostle James, 4 chap. is too applicable to us in this case—are we following the examples and obeying the command of God's word by reading, praying, and setting apart a portion of every day for the worship of God in our families, and are we with our families never absent from the House of God, and the Ordinances of the Gospel? If we are, we trample on God's word, and grieve his spirit—Are we also attending to, and putting in force the laws of the King of Zion, by withdrawing from every one that walks disorderly? The purity of the Church is as much to be sought after as its advancement—indeed it cannot really be advanced but in righteousness; hence is that saying of our blessed Saviour, *Seek first the Kingdom of God and his Righteousness*. We need not expect to enjoy peace and prosperity in our Souls, nor harmony and growth in the Church, if we are negligent in our obedience to the word of God. To expect this, would be to separate between truth and faithfulness; but what exceeding great and precious promises are found in the word of God to the faithful—to him that overcometh—to him that doeth his commandments. The Church of Jesus Christ should be the best regulated Society on earth, and that because of the spirituality of her subjects, and the holiness of her Laws; and one reason, it may be, why we experience more inconveniencies than otherwise we should, is because of deviating from the primitive order, in not setting apart by the imposition of hands a sufficient number of Deacons, and committing to them the sole management of the temporal affairs of the Church. While we have great cause to rejoice in God for the ingathering of precious souls to himself, in various parts of the world—let us not forget to do our part in the good work, by contributing in aid of Missionary and

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