

unnatural sins. What is unbelief but an obscuring and diminishing of God? Any course of sin will sear the conscience and dim the vision of the divine majesty. Hence the deep necessity of attending to the duty of the text, for unless we know what it is to magnify the Lord, we are out of Christ, under his condemnation, and have never experienced the heavenly vision.

1st. We will offer certain reasons why the Lord should be magnified by us.

(a.) In order to *know* him truly we must magnify him. "And this is life eternal, that they should know thee the only true God, and him whom thou didst send, even Jesus Christ." Whereas, "the wicked shall be turned into hell, and all the nations that forget God." How important then to know him, not as a dim, superstitious, baleful influence of some kind: but as the true and living God our Father. Unless we learn to magnify God he will never be to us anything but a terror in the night, much as the reputed ghosts are to our children in the darkness. The moon was for centuries an object of varied superstitions, and people talked about the man in the moon, and the man with a bundle of sticks on his back; but the advent of the telescope with its wonderful magnifying powers has completely uncovered to our intelligent vision the satellite just across the way from us in space. Much more, the Lord be magni-

fied, that we may know him, who set the moon in the heavens, and created man that he might both glorify and enjoy the great author of his being.

(b.) In order to *hold fellowship* with God we must magnify him. John says, "Yea, and our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son, Jesus Christ." This is certainly an exalted privilege to be in close and constant fellowship with the Father of our spirits. Jesus said, "No longer do I call you servants; for the servant knoweth not what his lord doeth: but I have called you friends; for all things that I heard from my Father I have made known unto you." He gives us the secrets of the household, and the confidences of his heart, which no servant in the family is permitted to enjoy. He gives us that sweet, secret, heartfelt fellowship which is the very essence of true friendship. But in order to possess all this we must magnify the Lord. During the past summer the eye of the astronomer has been fixed night after night on the deep red planet glowing above our northern horizon, and the true dream and hope of the astronomer is to be able to hold communication with the inhabitants of Mars. Were it accomplished this would be the triumph of science in all the ages. But here is a grander and vastly more important triumph, which God by his word and the work of his Son has accomplished, that man may have fellow-