

When our interest is at stake, it is the part of wisdom, it is the part of prudence, it is the part of common sense, to exert ourselves to secure that interest. And the greater the interest at stake is, the more vigorously should we exert ourselves. No interest can be greater than the interest of our souls for eternity. Then what prevents our utmost exertions in this greatest of all concerns? in this weightiest of all affairs? Shall we give attention to the business, the pleasures, the trifles and the amusements of this transitory fleeting state, and disregard the business of our souls and of eternity? Shall we listen when worldly interest calls, and turn a deaf ear when the word of God speaks to us? Shall we listen to every voice, but the voice of spiritual wisdom? And shall that divine voice cry aloud and no man regard it? Shall the house of God be neglected, the ministers of the Gospel be despised, and the sacraments of the Christian religion be lightly esteemed? Shall we be frugal of all the six days which God has given us for our worldly employments, whilst we esteem the day which he has reserved to himself as lost time; or rob God of *that* day's service, converting it to secular business, idleness, vice, or vanity?

Although a discourse on this subject, can with propriety be addressed to people of all ages; yet the middle aged, and more especially those of advanced years, ought to consider it with uncommon attention, with double anxiety. We, who are approaching the last stage of our pilgrimage, must (of all men) be sensible that we have no