

future benefit. They know by experience what it is to be religious, and the happiness that flows from it. They are aware of the dangers to which you are exposed from your hearts, from Satan, and from the world. They know that there are numerous advantages accruing from early piety, and that there is infinite danger in trifling with or neglecting it. Hence, for these and other reasons, they often plead with God to preserve you from the snares of youth, and to enlighten and save your souls. In various ways they strive to promote your good. By instructing you in the Sunday School, by presenting you occasionally with some little book, by directing serious and affectionate counsel to you, and by affording you opportunities to receive benefit, they evince their desire to co-operate with your parents in securing your affections for Christ. Whilst reading these observations, several such friends as I advert to will probably recur to your minds. You will think of the *Minister* you often hear, the Sunday School *teacher* who has frequently talked with you about the salvation of your soul, an *aunt*, an *uncle*, a *cousin*, or some *friend*, from whose lips the *care of the soul* has been urged upon you again and again. Ought you not then to be decided? Why do you halt between two opinions? Why do you withhold your heart from the Saviour? What hinders your salvation at the present time? Are the prayers and efforts of your parents and friends to be in vain? Say, will you *not comply with their pious wishes?*

In addition to the preceding considerations, the *writer* wishes to be regarded by you as a *friend*; and, as such, will call your attention to a few concluding observations. It would delight his heart to know that you read the Scriptures daily, that you daily pray to God, and seek his favour through the mediation of Jesus Christ and the aid of the Holy Spirit, that you delight to attend on the Sabbath the public means of grace, that you prefer pious companions to any others, and that you resolve to make religion the main business of your life. How delightful it is to meet with examples of early piety! The mind recurs with pleasure to the names of Josiah, Timothy, and others, because there is reason to believe that they were early attached to God, and delighted to do his will. For the same reason, we are interested in what is recorded of the learned and pious Beza, who thanked God that at the age of *sixteen years* he had taught him to love and to serve him, of Philip Doddridge, George Burder, Robert Hall, Samuel Knill, Phebe Bartlett, and many others, who, at a very early period, sought and found the blessings of true religion. Of Samuel Knill, it is said by his father:

“One Sunday, on returning from chapel, our servant said to him, ‘Samuel, you are late today; what is the matter?’ ‘Oh!’ said Samuel, ‘it is sacrament day.’ ‘And have you had the sacrament?’ ‘No; I very much wished it; but papa would not give it to me.’ ‘Why?’ ‘Papa says he cannot give it to any body but those who love the Lord Jesus Christ; and I am sure I love Christ, and I told papa so, yet he did not give it to me.’” This occurred *before* he was *seven* years old. Can my young friends say that *they love* the Lord Jesus Christ? Phebe Bartlett, it appears, from *Edwards on Religious Revivals*, loved the Lord when she was about *four or five* years old; and I have read of some who gave indications of the possession of piety when only *two and three* years of age. Early piety, at whatever period it may commence, is of the utmost importance, and for that reason I wish still to urge it upon you.

Think, my dear young friends, of the advantages resulting from it. In this consists *true greatness*. Whatever endowments you may possess, or whatever the circumstances in which you are placed, without personal piety you are neither wise, safe, nor happy. On the other hand, its possession will be conducive to your health; it will secure numerous temporal benefits; it will elevate and purify your mind; it will confer upon you the highest honour; it will render you useful to others; it will promote your own peace and happiness; it will augment your power to do good; it will bring you into alliance with the holiest and best of men; and it will issue in the realization of the imperishable and eternal blessings of a future state. Can you longer hesitate in your choice of “that good part?” Let me entreat you, at the *present time*, to apply to Christ for salvation. He will hear your prayers, help your infirmities, gratify your desires, enrich your souls, and make you truly happy.

Your's sincerely,

J. T. B.

May 5, 1843.

#### FOR THE HARBINGER.

#### THE LAST REQUEST OF A PIOUS MOTHER.

I was intimately acquainted with the subject of the following narrative. Mrs. Phillips was the wife of a very respectable farmer in Ireland, and the mother of five children; three sons, one of whom, Richard, was, and is now, a respectable Methodist preacher in that land, and two daughters, most of whom found joy and peace in believing. But Edward, the youngest of the family, remained careless for years. This proved a source of great grief, especially to his mother, now