

all his glory. Such is this world, when viewed by the eye of faith in the Scriptures of truth. And this great and good world was made, and is governed, for the benefit of true believers, who are the heirs of salvation. And when they view the world in this light, it appears to be their friend, and not their enemy; for all the great things, good things, evil things, and mean things in it, are mutually conspiring to promote their holiness and happiness, both in time and eternity.

1008. WORLDLY CONFORMITY.

Em. Christians never have any occasion to conform to the world. The great controversy between them and the world is, which shall conform to the other. The world always desire and endeavor to constrain or persuade Christians to conform to them, though they know that God has forbidden them to be conformed to the world. They are constantly and heartily engaged to gain the victory over Christians, and whenever they do gain the victory over one or more Christians, they exult and triumph. But if Christians would constantly live by faith, they would constantly gain the victory over the world, and constrain them to conform. The conquered must always be the conformists. Do we not see some individual Christians live so uniformly a life of faith, that they constrain all with whom they are connected and concerned, to be conformed to them, and pay homage to their faith and piety? And does not this more visibly appear, whenever God pours out his Spirit in uncommon effusion, and enlivens the graces of Christians, and awakens and converts sinners? Christians, then, emphatically overcome the world, and the world are constrained to submit. The truth is, that if Christians would live by faith, as they ought to live, and not conform to the world, the world would always conform to them.

1009. WORLD, UNSATISFYING.

Em. The things of the world have always proved unsatisfactory to the heirs of immortality. Solomon had more wisdom, more knowledge, more wealth, more fame, and more prosperity, than any other king before or after him. But all these great and splendid objects united, were utterly insufficient