

inclinations and appetites; he would there meet with no suitable company; no persons whose conversation he could take any delight and complacency in, "for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? or what communion hath light with darkness?"—2 Cor. vi. 14. Thus, holiness is necessary, whether we look at it as God's appointment, or whether we consider those who occupy a place in heaven.*

Lastly, we ought to be diligent, if we bear in mind, that even in heaven, "*every one will be rewarded according to his works.*" That servant who, with *one pound*, gained *ten* pounds, was made ruler over *ten* cities; and he who, with *one* pound, gained but *five* pounds, was set over *five* cities, (Luke. xix. 16-19.) If, then, heaven is so desirable in itself, it is also desirable in its degrees, and, in this sense, we ought to "covet earnestly the best gifts;"—here our ambition need not be limited, we may with propriety long for the "uppermost seats" in heaven, aspire to its highest honors; and the more earnestly we seek for them, the more highly we shall be lauded of God.

* Bishop Burnett, p. 386.