

satisfied of their truth, acquainted with their contents, and to form the whole of our temper and conduct on their real and exalted principles.—Having thoroughly considered the evidences by which their truth is supported; having viewed the astonishing events they relate, the holy commandments they enjoin, the sublime mysteries they reveal, the heavenly tidings they publish, the purity, harmony, and simplicity they exhibit, together with the light and joy they impart, you will have no more room to doubt whether they are the word of God, than you have room to doubt whether the heavens and the earth are the works of God. Being convinced that they are the word of God, you will unavoidably infer their sufficiency to answer all the purposes for which they were designed; that they are able to make you wise unto salvation. To suppose the contrary, is to contradict their plain dictates and to insult their Divine Author. Deeply impressed with this thought, you will cordially believe their truths, imbibe consolation from their promises, and cheerfully obey their precepts: you will see the propriety of rejecting all human inventions in matters of faith and practice, and of recurring to the law and to the testimony for the authority of every thing that claims the honor of a divine rite: you will be convinced of the necessity of being equally attentive to every part of God's word: to its precepts as well as promises, to its reproofs as well as doctrines: you will by a divine blessing on these means, be guarded against all extremes and errors, be firm in your faith, steady in your disposition, and uniform in your conduct. Search the Scriptures DAILY, comparing Scripture with Scripture, the Old with the New Testament, and consider every passage in its immediate connection with the design of the inspired penman. Implore the aids of the Divine Spirit, always remembering that spiritual things are spiritually discerned. By these means you will acquire a habit of thinking for yourselves,—you will see the beauty, feel the force, and exemplify the spirit of genuine Religion. It is worthy of observation, that the Holy Spirit, whose office it is to illuminate, comfort, and sanctify the human soul, attends Scriptural instructions for these very ends.—His secret operations always correspond with his revealed will, and the former are best known by the latter. Without a devout and impartial attention to the plain instructions of this infallible guide, you are liable to be left in a maze of perplexing errors; instead of advancing with growing satisfaction in the delightful paths of truth, you are in danger of mistaking the shadow for the substance, the form for the power of godliness, the wild sallies of natural affections for the lovely fruits of the Divine Spirit. But by a due attention to the Sacred Writings, you will not only