

during the perusal. Can the frequent renewal of the covenant engagement in connection with the habitual and continued disregard of its requirements be regarded as any thing better than trifling with God and making a kind of mockery of the most solemn vows? Ought not the church to speak out in an audible voice by her discipline as well as by her pulpit and press, saying in no unmistakeable language to the world "we honor our God and his laws, and demand at the sacrifice of all feeling and of all our dearest joys, that whoever ask our fellowship as christians, shall have it only so long as they with us bow to the authority of heaven, and aim to walk in the narrow path marked out by our Saviour.

We would illustrate the evil resulting from neglect in this matter by a very familiar example. Suppose the case of a respectable family composed partly of professors of religion and partly of the unconverted. On Sunday morning they all go in company to the house of God. The minister, who is learned, eloquent, and pious, has occasion in his morning's discourse to dwell to some extent upon the beauties and the wonders of the Bible, its antiquity, its disclosures, its promises and its Author, warming up however into far more than earthly zeal, he exhausts himself in trying to tell what exquisite delight the child of God experiences while perusing those sacred pages, and exhorts in burning words his impenitent hearers to taste for themselves of this heavenly joy. The congregation is dismissed—the people retire, many no doubt highly delighted and some perhaps astonished at themselves for so long neglecting their Bible. The family referred to above goes home,—the dinner hour passes, no one opens the Bible,—the bell for S. School rings, no one goes to teach the young the doctrines of the Bible,—the afternoon and tea-hour passes, the church bell again is heard and no one has perused a chapter or talked of a fact or a promise contained in the much extolled Bible. The preacher is again found in his place, his subject prayer. If he was more eloquent in the morning, he is more subdued and

sol
of c
of p
is s
som
real
neve
hear
fami
quiet
be so
tell n
ciden
mising
fami
knew
raging
to reti
and pr
we bel
called
bud of
We
itself a
most lo
to guide
much m