

blessings, to wean your affections from this world, and to make you set them on things eternal? Have you considered his ways, and your ways; been drawn off from love of the world, and been taught to put your trust in him? Have his mercies increased your love of him, in consideration of your happiness in this world; and his judgments have they added to your faith, in looking to those things which are to come? Have you grown in knowledge of him, in consequence of his dispensations? If you have not, his judgments and mercies have not been improved by you. This is knowledge of him, that we should love him; and "this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments."\* Examine yourselves, and see how far you have learnt this lesson, and practised this wisdom. Have you looked to God, and acknowledged his restraining and directing grace in what has happened unto you? Whether you have received good, or whether you have received evil, have you blessed the name of the Lord? Have you kept his commandments, his sabbaths, his sacraments, or his covenant? Examine into these things, and judge yourselves impartially; and you will learn not to judge other men severely. You will say, "Verily, I am deficient in love of God, in gratitude to him, in trust in him, in keeping the faith and the commandments of Jesus." You will confess, that, "it is of the Lord's mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not. They are new every morning."† This is a time, a special time, for making this examination, confession, and improvement. A new year has begun, and new mercies are repeated. Let them not pass away unimproved. Reflect on the goodness of God to you in the dispensations of his providence, in the riches of

\* John, 5--5.

† Lam. 3--22, 23.