

A SERMON.

EPHESIANS V. 19.—“Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord.”

THE Apostle is exhorting the Ephesians to wait on God in every appointed means of grace, for larger communications of the Holy Spirit, Whose sacred influences would fill their souls with satisfying consolation under every present circumstance, and tend to the happiest consequences in future. Of such joyous influences they might seek a full supply without any danger of excess.

In order to this, he exhorts them to substitute, in place of the loose songs of the Gentiles, or other frivolous melodies, the “psalms and hymns” of the Sacred Scriptures, and such “spiritual songs” as godly men had composed, embodying the subjects of the Gospel, and teaching according to the doctrine of truth. In these they were to speak to one another, paying at the same time particular regard to the affections of their hearts, that the *inward* melody and gratitude of the heart unto the Lord might accompany the *outward* melody of poetry and singing, when they used their psalms and spiritual songs either in private, social, or public worship.