

GOD'S WORSHIP NOT SELF-SEEKING.

“Then Satan answered the Lord, and said, Doth Job
fear God for nought?”—JOB i. 9.

I have ever been accustomed to make God's Word, spoken by His Son or His servants, the basis of my sermons; now I take the Devil's words—for none so suitable to express the evil thing of which I am to discourse.

The loving Lord is forward to praise His own: to “the Accuser,” Satan, He says, “Hast thou considered My servant Job, that there is none like him in the earth, a perfect and an upright man, one that feareth God and escheweth evil?”

To “fear God,” I may observe, is the common Old Testament phrase for being a worshipper of God. In reply, the Devil answers with a devilish malice, suggesting the insincerity of God's very best servant in all the earth. “Hast Thou not made an hedge about him, (says he,) and about his house, and about all that he hath on every side? Thou hast blessed the work of his hands, and his substance is increased in the land. But put forth Thine hand now, and touch all that he hath, and he will curse Thee to Thy face.” (vv. 10, 11). The Lord joins issue, so to say, with Satan. He accepts the challenge in behalf of Job: “Behold all that he hath is in *thy* power: only upon himself put not forth thine hand.” How devilishly that power was used, we know, but in vain: “Blessed be the name of the Lord,” is Job's pious conclusion.

Sep'r 28 1918

