

assert it. My heart's desire and prayer is, that all people and nations may worship God in spirit and in truth, and "hold the faith in unity of spirit, in the bond of peace, and in righteousness of life." I would avoid hard questions, and commandments and doctrines of men, fearful of encroaching on the purity and the liberty of the Gospel, and on the love of God and man, which is the bond of perfectness. But at the same time, I would walk in the old paths, and point out the good way, which the Saints and heroes of the Reformation, and the Martyrs of our Church, were raised up by God to repair and establish: and standing in them, ~~and~~ I would strive to serve the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ with zeal according to knowledge.

My sentiments on the subjects treated of in the following extracts, have been frequently heard by you. I am now happy in giving you them in a better shape, and in the language of some of the best and greatest Divines that have ever lived. It is not my speaking or writing to you valuable truths I care so much for, as for your learning them. It is a plain and humble book which I have published, intended specially for your good; and I hope, it will be profitable to all who use it. I have endeavored to make it as useful a Manual of its size as I could, and I have therefore extracted Prayers and passages from the best authors in my possession; but I have to regret the want of a few books which would have assisted me in making this collection more complete. All the Prayers are selected from different publications; and as far as it has been in my power, I have given the names of the respective authors. None of them are taken out of the Book of Common Prayer of our Church, as most of you are already supplied with that most excellent collection and valuable body of Divinity. I must exhort you to use ~~this~~ book (the best one in the world drawn up by uninspired men) diligently, in private as well as in public worship, that you may prove this and all your talents to the glory of God, and to your growth in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Let me intreat your improvement of this book also. You will find in it Prayers and short discourses or reflections suited to almost every exigence and situation in life, and furnishing you with instruction and aid for your edification in knowing and doing your duty in all the worship and service of God. The principal object I have in view in print-