

obligations run into this one. We are commanded to let our light shine before men, that they seeing our good works may be constrained to glorify our Father who is in heaven. We are exhorted to shine as lights in the world, holding forth the word of life. The example of Christ and the Apostles, presented before us for our imitation, enjoins the same thing. They sought not to please themselves. They endured all things that men might obtain the salvation of God with eternal glory. Let us, then, impressed with our duty to God, and animated by the example of our Lord, seek to adorn our holy profession in every circle into which we may be thrown.

J. B. F.

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 "SOUND DOCTRINE."

We have labored long and zealously to explain, establish, and enforce correct views of Faith, Repentance, and Baptism, and the outward order of a New Testament Church; this is well, and these things should have still their share of attention in our meetings and in our publications, but not to the exclusion of those moral precepts; without the practice of which all our professions are as sounding brass or a noisy cymbal. I have often found inattentive hearers when I have endeavored to enforce the necessity of secret prayer; the worship of God in families; more attention to social meetings for prayer, praise, and the study of God's word; more conversation with friends and companions on practical godliness; and the necessity of an entire conformity to all the will of God. Discourses on themes like these have called forth no signs of approbation, while a sermon on some of our distinguishing peculiarities would have been listened to with the most profound attention. Brethren often appear quite surprised that the disobedient do not receive and obey the gospel, while they can let days and weeks pass without spending an entire hour in the prayerful study of God's word. They can find time to visit friends and brethren, to converse on all subjects and on all occasions, but no time to retire to their closets to hold communion with God. These are the pseudo reformers which I fear; men so worldly would sell the cause of God for a mess of pottage; they soon fall out with their brethren, and a prayerless man you never can fully reconcile to his brother; he becomes wilful, and rather than humble himself before God and his people, he would see the Church of God and his cause scattered to the four winds. All this begins in the neglect, of what are esteemed by too many, small duties. If we would see the cause of truth triumphant, the constant watching over our thoughts, words, and actions must characterize us. Persevering prayer, and the conscientious discharge of the duties we owe to God and man, must be required as proof of the sincerity of our profession. Indeed the whole christian system is only the means!—The end is the formation of a character as near like the great Exemplar as possible. He who is satisfied with his christianity, because he attends regularly upon the ordinances of the gospel in the congregation, and neglects the daily study of God's word, self-examination, and