

life" in that eternal kingdom of glory, where there will be "pleasures for evermore."

But although this Spiritual knowledge mentioned in the text, and its consequent inestimable blessings, are so freely and fully offered to all who will rightly seek them, it is manifestly a deplorable truth that the vast majority of those who profess faith in a pure Christianity remain for ever destitute of their actual possession. This is chiefly, if not entirely, owing to a carelessness and neglect of putting forth, and perseveringly employing, the degree of *effort* and *diligence* Scripturally and essentially required. In some faint degree, they occasionally *seek*, but they do not perseveringly *strive*; yet it is commanded: "Strive to enter in at the strait gate; for many shall seek to enter in, but shall not be able;" "Give all diligence to make your calling and election sure;" "The kingdom of Heaven suffereth violence and the violent take it by force." Such careless persons also remain, more or less, involved in worldliness of *spirit* and *conduct*, avoiding the required self-denial of "the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eye, and the pride of life." They are unwatchful and defective as to prayer, the exercise of faith, consulting and obeying the Scriptures, and attending on other means for obtaining grace, wisdom, and needful direction for a steady and safe religious life. And further, they are very inattentive as to the discharge of personal and relative duties, divinely required. Thus careless, neglectful, and disobedient, they remain to the last, like the "foolish virgins," unholy and unsaved. They are of those, of whom it is said in Scripture, "Slothfulness casteth into a deep sleep; and like the sluggard, who "will not plough by reason of the cold, therefore shall he beg in harvest and have nothing."