

2. We are required to follow them in their faith and patience; in their steady regard to the commands and promises of God, and in their patient continuance in well-doing, amidst all the trials and oppositions which the world may throw in our way.

We are to follow their faith. And as an inducement to do so, consider, I beseech you, through what an illustrious series our faith has been handed down; through the hands of Patriarchs, Prophets and Kings; Saints, Apostles and Martyrs, Jesus Christ himself being the author and finisher of it. How many pious, how many benevolent, how many worthy men, how many great and illustrious characters, have, in later times, been formed by Christian principles! How many of our fathers have trod the path of virtue before us, looking back with steady faith to the history, instruction and miracles, to the death and resurrection of the Son of God, and forward with the confidence of hope, to the day of his second and glorious appearing! How many worthy ornaments of our native country, did not the last age produce! Men who joined the firm faith of the Gospel, to the practice of its just and upright maxims, and infinitely benevolent principles; who raised their voice against much abounding iniquity, who strove in behalf of knowledge, justice, liberty, loyalty, and human happiness; who contended thus in peace and in war, in the senate and the field,