

Son of David, who had established a far greater, more glorious and blessed empire, over which he was to reign till time should be no more. They felt that they were turned from darkness to light, from the power of Satan to God, and they talked sweetly of the mighty benefits they enjoyed, encouraged one another to persevere in well doing, for in due time they would reap the reward. That the first Christians spent much of their time in such mutual communication, that they rejoiced in religious conversation, and provoked one another to good works is proved from the whole history of the Church, and more especially manifested in the 2d Chap. Acts of the Apostles. "And they continued stedfastly in the Apostle's doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread and in prayers. And all that believed were together and had all things common; and sold their possessions and goods, and parted them to all men, as every man had need. And they continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house; did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart." If we turn from this happy society, happy notwithstanding their external tribulations and the persecutions to which they were exposed, to the Christian communities of the present day, how lifeless and cold are we in the cause of truth; but confining ourselves to the conversations in which we indulge, contrasted with theirs, what inference can we draw; if they delighted to discourse of their eternal welfare, if they spoke of the truths revealed by our holy religion with fervor, have we less interest in these things, are we not equally distant from God as they were before their conversion, if we still keep back and take no delight in proclaiming the goodness of his holy name? It is not that such serious conversation should be studiously introduced or affectedly prolonged, but that they should never be shunned, on the contrary they ought to be cherished and improved; nor should those who introduce them with propriety be branded with the name of fanatics. "It is to be feared," says an excellent writer, "that this general dread of serious topics arises a good deal from an ignorance of the true nature of religion. They conceive of it something that involves controversy and mischief, something of an inflammatory nature, which is apt to stir up ill humors and set friends at variance. But nothing can be more distant from the truth, our religion speaks peace and good will to man, it presents the most glorious truths, in