

before their eyes, there was a murmur amongst some as regarded the manner of serving the food. Even in early days how soon thoughts similar to those which influence man in his natural state entered into and had power over the minds of those who were the first fruits of the grace of God and the work of Christ. The attack of the enemy, as is ever the case, was directed against those who were foremost in the battle, for from verse 2 it is clear, that the apostles themselves were to be taken from their hitherto glorious testimony to Christ in heaven, in order to bestow their time and labour upon that which might serve to lessen the murmurings of saints on earth. Wisdom was given to the apostles to meet the danger and to still the murmurings, "Then the twelve called the multitude of the disciples unto them and said, it is not reason that we should leave the word of God, and serve tables," (v. 2), and again, "But we will give ourselves continually to prayer and to the ministry of the word," (v. 4). If in these early days prayer and the ministry of the word was needed for the work, how needful in these days that the saints should continue stedfastly in both prayer and the reading of the word !

Although occupied in the daily business engagements of this life (engagements doubtless for the most part necessary), the earnest Christian will when such engagements are fulfilled, find time for prayer and reading the word. He is thus refreshed and strengthened, and keeps fresh in his own