

You have acted upon principles, thus far *according to godliness*, but as you did not adopt them from a holy motive, they will only condemn you at the bar of judgment. You have gathered around you many comforts, but none that will comfort your spirit when it is departing into eternity. You have acquired a respectable standing in society, but how do you stand in the sight of God? Slander has not breathed upon your reputation, nor suspicion even cast a glance upon your honour; but you have loved the world, and sought not the honour that cometh from above. You have been faithful to your engagements, you have exercised the courtesies of life, you have not betrayed your friend, you have not oppressed the poor—but you have loved the world. The miserable you have often pitied and relieved, from the promptings of natural sympathy; the welfare of your country you have advanced, on the dictates of enlightened patriotism; but you have loved the world; and love it still; it is your chosen portion, and you desire no better. Now *if any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him*. You have failed, then, in the very first principle of duty towards your Maker and Judge. *The first and great commandment is, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, with all thy mind, with all thy soul, and with all thy strength.* This commandment you have broken. To you may be addressed the awful words of our Lord to the unbelieving Jews, *I know you, that you have not the love of God in you*. And he knows you, too, as thoroughly and as intimately as he knew them; and he knows that the solemn charge is as applicable to