

On the RIGHT USE of the LORD's  
OUTWARD GIFTS.

AS our understandings are opened by the pure light, we experience that, through an inward approaching to God, the mind is strengthened in obedience; and that by gratifying those desires which are not of his begetting, those approaches to him are obstructed, and the deceivable spirit gains strength.

These truths, being as it were engraven upon our hearts, and our everlasting interest in Christ evidently concerned herein, we become fervently engaged, that nothing may be nourished which tends to feed pride or self-love in us. Thus in pure obedience, we are not only instructed in our duty to God, but also in the affairs which necessarily relate to this life, and the spirit of truth which guides into all truth, leavens the mind with a pious concern, that "whatsoever we do in word or deed, may be done in his name," Col. iii. 17.

Hence such buildings, furniture, food, and raiment, as best answer our necessities, and are the least likely to feed that selfish spirit which is our enemy, are the most acceptable to us.

In this state the mind is tender, and inwardly watchful, that the love of gain draw us not into any business, which may weaken our love to our heavenly father, or bring unnecessary trouble to any of his creatures.

Thus