A Servant of the Lord, not Ashamed of his Lord.

A Short Essay
To FORTIFY the Minds of ALL Persons,
Especially of YOUNG Persons,
Against the Discouragements of PIETY,
Offered in the Derisions of the Impious.

Made in a SERMON to a SOCIETY of Young Persons, meeting for the Exercises of Religion, on the LORDS-DAY Evening.

Tunc cede malis, sed contra audentiori

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A Servant of the LORD, Not Ashamed of his LORD.

14. d. 3. m. 1704. Lords-day Evening.

Mark VIII. 38.
Whosoever shall be Ashamed of me, and of my Words, in this Adulterous and Sinful Generation, of him also shall the Son of Man be Ashamed when He comes in the Glory of His Father, with the Holy Angels.

I am Endeavouring to Fortify my Young People against the Temptations, with which their great Adversary Endeavours to Discourage their Youthful Piety.

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The Derision of the Impious, is not the least of the Temptations, by which Early Piety is Disheartened. I speak to you, O my Young People, That when you are Tempted in this Point, you may overcome the Wicked One. You are directed, 2 Pet. 1. 5. Add unto your Faith, COURAGE. Doubtless, you Believe, That Serious Religion is the Truest, the Highest, the Only Wisdom. Doubtless, you Believe, That it is your Interest immediately to Fear God, and Love Christ, and Hate Sin, and Live Holily, and Prepare for Heaven. What I would now bespeak of you, is, The Courage to Assert and Proclaim this your Belief; the Courage to Do, what, I Know, you Believe that you ought to do.

We are forewarned, in 2 Tim. 3. 12. All that will live Godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer Persecution. And tho' in some Countreys, the Laws allow not Persecution to be managed by Acts of Ungodly Violence, yet there are...
are no Countreys, wherein Godliness is not liable to some other measures and methods of Persecution. The great Reproach and Contempt where-with real Godliness, is often treated, carries no little Persecution in it. There is in the Nature of Man a Passion called, Shame; and that Shame is a certain Fear of Reproach & Contempt. GODLINESS is discouraged by its Enemies in this world, this way more than by another. The Reproach & Contempt which is cast upon Godliness, by those which the Scripture calls, Cruel Mockings, does operate upon this Passion, to make men decline all Serious Religion.

We read, Gen. 21:9. Sarah saw the Son of Hagar the Egyptian, Mocking. And we read, Gal 4:29. As then he that was born after the Flesh Persecuted him that was born after the Spirit, Even so it is now. I am very sorry to hear, That still, So it is now, too much among our selves at this Day. Alas, the Ishmaels of the place discourage many.
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many of our Young People, from approving themselves the true Children of Abraham.

To rescue His Disciples, from the Discouragement, which that sort of Persecution may give unto their Godliness, our Lord JESUS CHRIST uttered the solemn Sentence, which now lies before our Meditations. Our Lord assures His Followers, That they must submit unto various, numerous, numberless Difficulties, in the Service whereunto He calls them; and particularly unto much Reproach and Contempt from the men of this world. That He may prevent our Sinking under the Shame of the Reproach and Contempt which we must Encounter in this world, He sets before us, the Issue of Things, in the world to come. The Glorious Judge of the world, here declares, That He will one Day appear in an inexpressible Glory, to the Judgment of the world. Our Lord will come, not only in His own Glory, Even that Majesty
not ashamed of his Lord. Majesty which belongs unto Him, as He is the Messiah; but also with the Glory of His Father, Even that Majesty which belongs unto Him, as He is very God over all: And with the Glory of His Holy Angels, whereof Myriads of Myriads will then stand before Him, and Thousands of Thousands will then Minister unto Him. At this Coming of the Lord, all men shall be Summoned before His Judgment-Seat; and Then, they that have been by Shame hindered from owning of the Lord JESUS CHRIST, and of His Words, will have an Eternal Shame cast upon them. The Lord JESUS CHRIST will refuse to Own them with any one Token of His Favour to them: He will Publish all their Sins before the world; He will Punish them for their Sins World without End.

My Hearers cannot now refuse a DOCTRINE, so plainly prepared for them in the Oracles of God.
DOCT. They that are ashamed of owning the Lord JESUS CHRIST in this world, shall be shamefully disowned by the Lord JESUS CHRIST in the world to come.

The CASE, which it will be for the Interest of Religion among my Young People, to hear discoursed, is this;

How may a Christian avoid the Shameful Character and Confusion of them that are ashamed of owning the Lord JESUS CHRIST?

It is to be Remembred, That the contrary to, Being Ashamed of the Lord JESUS CHRIST, is called, Matt. 10.32. A Confessing of Him. Now the Lord JESUS CHRIST is Confessed, both by being Believed, and by being Obeyed. Both of these are derided by Ungodly men; but their Derision Should not hinder us from such a Confession of our Lord. We are
are Ashamed of our Lord JESUS CHRIST Himself, if we are Ashamed of His Words. His WORDS! That is to say, the things which the GOSPEL of the Lord Jesus Christ hath Revealed to us; and the things which that Gospel has Required of us. An Admirable Exemple will I set before you, my Young People, even that of David, a Young person, who could say, Psal. 119. 51. The Proud have had me greatly in Derision, yet I have not declined from thy Law.

More Particularly.

1. No Derision from Ungodly men, should make us Ashamed of those Principles which the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ commends unto us. No; We must have the Apostolical Resolution; Rom. 1.16. I am not Ashamed of the Gospel of Christ. What tho' our Faith should be derided as a Fancy and a Folly? we must not be Ashamed of our Christian Faith, nor of any one Article in our Christian Faith. Our Faith has been some-
A Servant of the Lord, sometimes made a Scorn. As our Lord Jesus Christ Himself sometimes complained, Psal. 22. 7, 8. All they that see me, laugh me to Scorn; saying, He trusted on the Lord: So there may some laugh us to Scorn for trusting in that Lord. But we should not for this, be Ashamed of maintaining our Trust in our Lord Jesus Christ; or in the Discoveries which His Gospel has made unto us. Hezekiah was not Ashamed of his Confidence in his Great JEHOVAH, tho a scornful Rabshakeh said, What is this Confidence wherein thou trustest? The Jews are Ashamed of having our blessed JESUS for their Messiah, because, they say, This Jesus of Nazareth was one hanged on a Tree. The Pagans were Ashamed of having our blessed JESUS for their Saviour, because that would be, To adore One that was Crucified. This very JESUS, who is unto the Jews a Stumbling-block, and unto the Gentiles Foolishness, we must not be Ashamed of Him.
No, He should be Admired by us, for the very same cause that makes them Ashamed of Him. For, I beseech you; how can a sinner under the Curse of the Law, propose to be Redeemed from the terrible Curse, but by a JESUS thus made a Sacrifice? Let it be said of us, 1 Pet. 2. 7. Christ is an Honour to you that Believe. This very JESUS, of whom the Jews and Gentiles too, say, There is no Beauty in Him, for which we should desire Him; Oh! We should Admire Him, as, Altogether Lovely; and say of him, Psa. 50. 2. He is God, the Perfection of Beauty.

And thus; Whatever Articles of our Christian Faith, our Lord Jesus Christ has given us; we should count the Faith delivered unto the Saints, to be our matchless Treasure; No Derision should cause us to part with any part of this our Treasure. We must not be Ashamed of Believing, That there will be a Coming and Kingdom of the Lord Jesus Christ.
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wherein He will bestow a Crown of Righteousness on them that serve Him; Tho' 2 Pet. 3. 3, 4. There shall come in the last Days Scoffers, saying, where is the Promise of His Coming. We must not be Ashamed of Believing, That our Lord Jesus Christ has prepared for us an Heavenly City, with the Glory whereof the Sufferings of this present Time, are not worthy to be compared: Tho' Psal. 106. 24. some Dispose the Pleasant Land.

There are some Articles in the Faith of Christianity, which undergo the Derision of some that yet would be called Christians; Especially, that Grand Article which the Church either Stands or Falls withal; The Article of our Justification only by Faith in the Righteousness of our Lord JESUS CHRIST, who has been a Surety to God for us. The Doctrine of, Justification by an Imputed Righteousness, has been Coarsely, Rudely, Profanely Derided, by some Enemies to the Grace of God. It was com-
plained, Psal. 146. You have Shamed the Counsel of the Poor. What Counsel? It follows, Because the Lord is his Refuge. If I don't misremember, some of the Ancients have this Gloss upon it; Because he looks to be justified only by Faith in the Lord, & not by any Works of his own. But we must not be Ashamed of this Faith; Tis our very Life.

Nor should we be Shamed out of our Form of sound Words, to Express our Faith, by the Derision of Ignorant and Impious men. I would caution my Young People, against such Terms and Schemes of speaking, as may at all Expose the Glorious Mysteries of Christianity. Yet I would not have them Ashamed of using the Terms of, Receiving of Jesus Christ, and of, Relying on Jesus Christ; tho' some do flee at them as unintelligible Notions. I would not have them Ashamed of using the Terms of, Leaning on Christ, and, Walking with God, and, Being Born again, and Converted.
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tho' some do sling at them as a Fanatical sort of a Cant. God save you, my Young People, from ever falling under the Conduct of any, that shall deride the most Scriptural Forms of Expression, which describe to us the very Vital of Christianity!

II. No Derision from Ungodly men, should make us Ashamed of those Practices, which the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ Enjoys upon us. The Practice and Power of Godliness has always been Derided by a Generation of men under the Form of Godliness, denying the Power of it. But their Derision should have no Power upon us, to make us Ashamed of our Godliness. When you understand, O my Young People, that a Flashy sort of wretches, which would fain be thought Wittie ones, do but play upon all your Devout Carriages, let your Answer be that; 2 Tim. 1. 22: I suffer these things; Nevertheless I am not Ashamed; For I know whom I have Belived.

Our Lord Jesus Christ has a People
in the world; That People is His Mystical Body. We are Ashamed of Him, if of Them. The People who Rely on Christ, and Repent of Sin, and Walk in the Fear of God, are the peculiar Friends of our Lord. We are Ashamed of our Lord, if we are Ashamed of His Friends. Why should we treat the People of the Lord Jesus Christ, as Josephus tells us, the Samaritans did the Jews, with whom they would claim no Kindred, when any Adversity was upon them? We may be Derided for Lifting our selves among so obscure, so little, so maligned a People. But a Nehemiah will by no Grandeur, be hindred from owning the People of God, as his own People, whatever Disadvantages they may labour under.

Oh! Let not our Young People be Ashamed of an Exact and a Watchful Conformity to the Laws of the Lord JESUS CHRIST, in their Conversation, tho' they should be Derided for it. It may be Derided, as a Melan-
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Cholly Mopishness, if you keep up a sober and a solid Behaviour, and behave yourself always as having the Eye and the Awe of GOD upon you. Yet, O be not Ashamed of it! It may be Derided as an Impertinent Preciseness, if you keep a strict Guard over your Ways, and over your very Words, and, Abhor that which is Evil, and, Abstain from all appearance of Evil. Yet, O be not Ashamed of it! It may be Derided, as a Pusillanimity, for you to pass by, & put up Indignities, and revenge no Injuries that have been done you, but overcome Evil with Good, in doing good Offices for the Injurious. Yet, O be not Ashamed of it! When you come to swarm into Families of your own, Family Prayer may render you obnoxious to the Derision of Atheists; but if you are Ashamed of maintaining Family-Prayer, because of your being Derided for it, you will have the Character, not so much of Christians as of Atheists. You may be Derided as people of
not Ashamed of his Lord. Of little Souls, for attending the Ordinances of the Lord Jesus Christ: But if you are Ashamed of Joyning to the Church; if you are Ashamed of Entering into Covenant with God, if you are Ashamed of going to Lectures, where the Word by which you may be saved, is dispensed; you are Ashamed of the Lord JESUS CHRIST Himself. Oh! Be not so!

You are called upon to make a Publick and an Open Declaration of the Choice, that you have made of the Lord JESUS CHRIST, & of the things that have moved you to choose the way of Truth. Be not Ashamed of doing it. Make the Confession for Salvation. Victorinus an Eminent Young Gentleman in Rome, was Converted unto Christianity. He made unto the Pastor of the Church, a Relation of his Conversion. The Pastor told him; Shall not the Church hear it? If you are loth to Publish this in the Church, I shall much doubt the Sincerity of your Conversion. He declined, he disdained, so Publick a
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Declaration. But afterwards, he saw his Fault; he was afraid of being Denied by the Lord Jesus Christ at last, among those that are Ashamed of Him; he became Victorious over his Criminal Bashfulness; he came again to Simplicity in the Pastor; he was Instructed, he was Baptised. And tho' the Minister offered unto him a liberty of some needless Privacy for his Confession, he would not accept the offer, No, said he, I will make my Confession before all the People; I will not be Ashamed of my Lord JESUS CHRIST.

What shall I say more? Sometimes it may be our Duty to take Shame unto ourselves, by Publick Acknowledgments of our miscarriages. We must not be Ashamed of doing so: When we have Sinned, we are Ashamed of our Lord Jesus Christ, if we are Ashamed of our letting all men see, that we are Ashamed of our Sin. The Language of one who is not Ashamed of the Lord, will be, [Psalm 51:3.] I acknowledge my Transgressions, and
I am ashamed that I have Transgressed against the Lord.

In fine; You are Ashamed of the Lord JESUS CHRIST, if you are Ashamed of imitating the Exemple of the Lord Jesus Christ. Our Lord had said, Whosoever will come after me, let him follow me. And then He adds, Whosoever shall be Ashamed of me, of him also shall the Son of Man be Ashamed. Oh! Be not Ashamed of having the like mind in you, that was in JESUS CHRIST. Be not Ashamed of walking as JESUS CHRIST Walked. A Christ-like Goodness, Activity, and Humility, be Ambitious, far from Ashamed of it. And if you must meet with such Contumelies as were heaped upon JESUS CHRIST, of these also be not Ashamed; why, why should you be Ashamed of any thing, wherein you may resemble that Glorious Lord? Buffets for Him are Glories! That is what I was coming to.

III. If Ungodly men Detride us, for our Owning of the Lord Jesus Christ.
we should count their Derision to be our Honour, and our Glory, rather than any real Shame unto us. That Shame which a wicked world would cast upon thee, O Religious Young man, 'tis thy Crown, and not thy Shame. So thought the Apostles of God; Act. 5. 41. They rejoiced, that they were counted worthy to suffer Shame for His Name. Read it so, if you please; They counted it a Grace to them, they might suffer Disgrace for His Name. If we have cause to be Proud of any thing in the world, it is of the Disrespect which we bear from the world, for the Respect which we bear to the Truths & Ways of our Lord. My Well-disposed Young People; All the Stones which Ungodly wretches fling at you, in their Flouts at your Serious, Vertuous, Holy Dispositions, you may wear them like so many Gems to set you off. Every Galumny is a Diadem; Investives against you will be Ornaments to you. Never do you appear in such Beautiful Garments, as when you are Sambenito'd be cause
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cause you are Confessors of the Lord: The great Moses, while yet a Young man, was of this Opinion; Heb. 11. 26. Esteeming the Reproach of Christ, greater Riches than the Treasures of Egypt. For the Egyptian Gentry, to belchow their Taunts & Squibs upon him, while he chose to Rise and Fall with a Poor, Despised, Oppressed People of God; --- he thought himself Enriched by being so Abused. Said he, Do, deride me; You do but Enrich me by doing so. How do the Oracles of Heaven express the matter? Phil. 1. 29. To you it is given in the behalf of Christ, not only to Believe, but also to Suffer, for His sake. Truly, every Contumely, every Indignity, that is cast upon you, for your Fidelity to the Lord Jesus Christ; you may say, This is a Gift of God unto me, & a greater Gift than I am worthy of! What a brave Spirit, what a strong Faith, was there in that person of Eminent Quality, who when he came to Dy an ignominious Death, declared, I have often begg'd of God, that if He had any
any Reproachful work to be done by His People, I might be Employ'd in it! How admirable was the Expression of the Ancient; O happy man shall I be, if my Lord Jesus Christ will make me a Buckler, to receive all the Reproachess that are cast upon Him! This I will say; If that sort of men which now Discide you, should Flatter you, there would be cause for you to be Jealous of yourselves, and Examine, Quid mali feci? and say, What have I done amiss, that these people should commend me? A Knight once going to Die a Martyr, with some Christians of an Inferior Quality, he was excused from wearing the same Chains with the rest, because of his Quality; but he called for his Chains, & Cry'd out, I beseech you, Sirs, let me be a Knight of that Order too! Christians, If you don't feel the same Scoffs with the rest of them that are men of another world, you might almost complain of it. You may count your selves Damnified and Disadvantaged, if you are not admitted into
that Order of People, that are Derided for their Zealously asserting the Interests of God.

IV. Do Ungodly men Deride us, for our owning of the Lord Jesus Christ? Let us make this one preventive of our being Ashamed: Others better than we, have been in like manner Derided before us. Nothing more carries above Shame, than, Socios habuisse. He that is not Alone in what he does, is not Ashamed of what he does. Are you Derided, O Young People of a Laudable Character, for those things which give you such a Character? Think on those Encouraging words of the Lord Jesus Christ; Mat. 5.11, 12. Blessed are ye when Men shall Revile you, & Persecute you, & shall say all manner of Evil against you falsely for my sake. Rejoice, and be exceeding Glad; for great is your Reward in Heaven; for so Persecuted they the Prophets which were before you. Whatever Derision may be hurled at you, for your Goodness, I will say to you, There is no Temptation...
tion befallen you, but what is common to the best of men. The best of men have had a share in Derision from them who are (therefore) the worst of men; and this thought is enough to carry us above the sense of any Shame from such a Derision. It has been sometimes the usage, which the Martyrs of the Lord have met withal; To be Sew'd up in the skins of wild Beasts, & be Throw'd out for the Teeth of mad Dogs. And something like it is done to you all, O Servants of the Lord, when, as the Apostle speaks, Heb. 10. 33. Ye are made a Gazing-stock by Reproachs. The Societies of the Primitive Christians, how did Julian deride them as consisting of little but Men-servants, and Maid-servants? Chrysostom confesses, They laughed at their Societies, as mostly made up of Nurses, & Midwives, & Eunuchs. The Papists made it believe'd, That the Vaudois were an hairy and an horrid sort of Satyrs.

Let our People be patient; they fare no worse than their Pastors: The Ministrers
Ministers of the Lord Jesus Christ meet with such as Ridicule their painful & zealous Ministry, and with a foolish Banter Travesty their most unexceptionable Dispensations. The pitiful Witlings of the Town, employ their sarcastical Scoffs and Jibes, and perhaps with Apish Imitations will play the Buffoons, & imagine themselves wondrous witty, if they throw out some Childish piece of mockery, upon the men of God, & their most considerable services for God. A David could say, and he was a Type of a greater than David when he said it; Psal. 69. 12. They that sit in the Gate speak against me, & I am the Song of the Drunkard. They would go to the Tavern, & over a Glass of Wine there, they would make sport with some lying Story or another concerning him. And what? Shall we be Ashamed of our Holy Ministry, because of this Derision? Oh, No; This were to be Ashamed of our Lord Jesus Christ Himself. But why should we be Ashamed?
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med? We read concerning that Excellent Preacher of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Apostle Paul; Acts 17:32

Some of his Hearers Mocked. When he Preached the Mystery of the Resurrection unto the Athenians, doubtless he insisted on the Metaphor of the Seed, which he so much used unto the Corinthians; and the mocking Athenians called him, (SPERMOLOGON,)
The Seed-Monger.

Yea, We read concerning our Lord Jesus Christ Himself, Luke 16:14. They derided Him. And, Psal 22:6, 7. I am a Reproach of men, Despised of the people; All they that see me, Laugh me to Scorn. Are we forced now, to take up one end of this ragged Cross? Yet since this part of our Conformity to our Lord Jesus Christ, Oh! Let us do like Him, of whom it is said, Hebrews 12:2. He despised the Shame. Christian, Thou art a Disciple of a Lord, who Endured the Contradiction of Sinners. Why should the Disciple fare any better than his Lord? Since He Despised the Shame.
Shame, let not the contradiction of sinners make us ashamed of our Christianity.

V. Ungodly men deride us, for our owning of the Lord Jesus Christ; but that we may not be ashamed of it, let us consider, who do applaud us, & who will applaud us. Will our young people, that are looking Zion-ward, consider this? Tho' ill men deride you, will any good men do so? No; They are far from it. And it is a good account that one has given us, about the true Nature of Honour; 'tis a good name with good men, for good things. O my young men, good men will speak nothing but good of you, for your choice & love of that which is good; your care to please God, & serve the Lord Jesus Christ. It belongs to a true citizen of Zion, Psal. 15:4. In his eyes a vile person is contemned, but he honours them that fears the Lord. I pray, whose judgment is to be preferred? A wise man, or a mad man? All good men are wise men; and all wise men will applaud your good con-
A Servant of the Lord; for, Wisdome will be justified of its Children. Those that Deride you, are the Mad men, of whom you know that, Madness is in their Hearts; their Talk is but the Ravery of a Mad man, and no more to be regarded than the Braying of an Ass, or the Barking of a Dog. Which is most Eligible? For a Young person to have all the Good men in the place, Commending of him, as a Vertuous, an Hopeful, a Lovely Person, & one of whom no little Good is to be expected: Or, for a Young Person, to have all the Good men of the place, in Ill Terms with him, as a Poor, Vain, Prodigal Youth, and one Good for nothing in the world! Judge ye.

I will instance in one thing. There are diverse Young persons, whose Apparel is directly contrary to that word of the Lord Jesus Christ: Let them Adorn themselves in Modest Apparel, with Shamesecedness and Sobriety. Why so? They say, they shall be Derided, if they don't affect all the Extravagancies.
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cies of Apparel that others put themselves into. But is not this, to be
Ashamed of the Lord Jesus Christ himself, whose word has Forbidden the
Vanities, & Excesses, & Luxuries of an Exorbitant world? Wherefore,

as David said, 2 Sam.6:22. I will yet be more vile than thus: And of the Maid-
servants, which thou hast spoken of, of them shall I be had in Honour. Even so,

Where one Silly Creature shall Deride you, all the the Discreet, Sober,
Solid People of the Town, would

App and you wonderfully.

Yea, Be it known to you, O Young People, Determining to know & mind
nothing so much as Jesus Christ: the men Deride your Determination, yet

God, and His Holy Angels, Behold it, Approve it, Accept it. Of Derided
Christians, we read, Joh. 12:26. If

any man serve me, him will my Father
Honour. And, 1 Cor. 4:9. We are made
a spectacle unto Angels. While a few
trifling Potsherds of the Earth De-
ride your Zeal for the Lord Jesus

Christ.
A Servant of the Lord, Christ, the Great GOD of Heaven sayes, Well done, Good and Faithful Servant! Oh! Don’t Love the Praise of Men, more than the Praise of God. While a few silly Mortals Deride your Zeal for the House of God, the Illustrious Angels of God, are the glad Witnesses of it; It strikes the Stars, with the lofty reaches of it: It makes a Report among the Angels. They see it, They praise it, There is Joy among the Angels of God for it. And I profess unto you, I value a kind mention in the Angelical world, far before a Name among the Great Men of the Earth.

What shall we say? Those very Wretches themselves, who now Deride you, will one Day Applaud you; They who now Scoff at you, within a little while would Change with you, if they might. As our Lord said, Rev. 3. 9. Behold, I will make them to come and worship before thy Feet, and to know that I have loved thee. Even so, Those that have Derided your Solicitude about your Salvation, God will make...
them to know, that you had no reason to be derided and ashamed. If ever those that would now make you ashamed of the Lord Jesus Christ, should be converted unto Him, they will be themselves ashamed of what they have done. When the fear of God comes into their hearts, and they come to be renewed in the spirit of their minds, that will alter their notes, and it will dispose them to espouse those very things which they now deride. If once wisdom enters into their hearts, and knowledge becomes pleasant unto their souls, they will no more deride the way of good men, & the path of the righteous; but with raptures of soul embrace it all their days.

Our New-English History has a notable example of something akin to this.

While our famous Hooker, was a preacher at Chelmsford, in England, a profane person designing to ridicule that man of God, said unto some of his companions in his profanity; 'Come let
A Servant of the Lord, let us go hear what that howling Hooker will say to us! And with an intention to make sport, unto Chelmsford they came. The man had not been long there, before the Word of God then dispensed, so pierced the Soul of him, that he received those Awakenings and Convictions, which issued in his Conversion to God. But Then! the Ministry which he once Derided, he ever after Admired; he so Admired & Affected it, that he came a thousand Leagues, even into this American Wilderness for the Enjoyment of it.

But, these Mockers, if they should Perish in their Unregeneracy, (as tis well if they don't!) what will they say, when they are in the Jaws of Everlasting Destruction from the presence of the Lord? When they shall see the Holy God Laughing at their Calamity, and Mocking at the Coming of their Fear upon them? A Balaam could say, Num. 23:10. Let me dye the death of the Righteous, & let my last end be like his. I will infallibly foretell, O
my dear Young People, what will be the Fate of them that have Derided your Love to God, and Goodness. When they feel the Arrows of Death thrust into their Hearts, and hear the Summons of Death calling them away to appear before the dreadful Judgment-seat of God, the Language of their Souls will then be, Oh! that I had practised the Religion, which once I Derided! Oh! That I had walked in the Religious ways of those Young People, whereof once, a wicked Fool that I was! I made a Ridicule.

There is a common saying, Let him Laugh that wins. Frothy Belialists may now Laugh at your Labours in Running the Race of Christianity set before you. But, stay; who is it that Wins the Prize of the Eternal Blessedness in the Heavenly places? None in the world are so like to Lose it, as they that Laugh at the only way that will bring unto it. They will no more Laugh at it, when for their doing so they find themselves Damned unto Weeping.
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and Wailing, & Gnashing of Teeth. 

VI. When Ungodly men Deride us for our owning of the Lord Jesus Christ let the Thoughts of the Day, wherein our Lord Jesus Christ will Prefer us, carry us above the Shame of all Derision. We read, Mat. 5. 10. Blessed are they which are Persecuted for Righteousness sake; for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven. You may be Derided, O Young People for being Righteous; That is to say, Derided, for being Wise unto Salvation! But in the Kingdom of Heaven you shall be the more Honoured, for your being so much Derided. There is a Day at hand, when they who by Patient Continuance in well-doing seek for Glory & Honour, shall have enough of what they seek. And as David said, when a Shimei Cursed him, God will Requite me Good; so when a Sinner Scoffeth us, we may promise ourselves a Requital in the Glory & Honour, that shall be heaped upon us, when we arrive to the City of God. For the Derided Christian, our Lord has pro-

vided.
vided that Consolation; Psal. 91.14, I will set him on high, because he hath known my Name, and I will Honour him. Oh! How should the Fore-sight of this, cause us to tread upon the black Serpent & the Asp, and to trample under foot the Dragon, & the great Dragon, when they spit their venomous Invectives against us, for our services to the Name of our God; Yea, tho' they should Print their Venom in one Pamphlet after another, as they have done against the greatest Instruments of Good in the world! The man that hath not been Ashamed of Dishonour for the Lord Jesus Christ, shall in the world to come, have this Question put concerning him, **What shall now be done for the man, whom the King of Heaven delights to Honour?** And the Answer to that Question will be, in all the unutterable, the inconceivable Glories of the Heavenly City. Sirs, At the Resurrection of the Dead, there will be a Resurrection of Names, as well as of Bodies: **All the Derrision & Aspersion**
that any of you have undergone, for your being Witnesses to the Lord Jesus Christ, He will then take off before Thousands and Millions of Witnesses. If you will not be Ashamed, but Confident in Appearing for the Lord Jesus Christ, tho' Derided for it; then, 1 Job. 2. 23. Little Children, when He shall appear, you will have Confidence, & not be Ashamed before Him at His Coming. The Lord Jesus Christ is now Derided in you, when men go to make you Ashamed of His Commands and Interests: But, Oh, Let Patience have its perfect work! For, 2 Thes. 1. 10. He shall come to be Glorified in His Saints, & Admired in all them that Believe. My Young People, will no Derision dishearten you, from your care to walk as before the Lord? You shall one Day be made Kings & Priests unto God, and shall Reign over the Earth; And when you shall with a Lusitre like that of the Stars upon you, become the Teachers and Rulers of the Saved Nations, that shall Walk
Walk in your Light, you shall not be Derided, nor Confounded world without End. Your Spirits then will have more Wisdom than Solomon, & more Goodness than Abraham, had before their Arrival among the Spirits of just men made perfect. Your Bodies will become Spiritual, Powerful, Incorruptible, and shining like the very Angels of God. The Lord Jesus Christ will then Associate you with Himself, in the Judging of the world. When David came to his Kingdom, he highly Advanced those that had not been Ashamed of Espousing his Cause, when the Grandees of the Land, had Exiled him, and Out-Law'd him. Thus our David in His Davidical Kingdom, when there shall come the Times of Refreshing by the Presence of the Lord, will give most wonderful Advancements unto them that have not been Ashamed of Him. A Person had been cast into Prison, for wishing well to the Heir of the Roman Empire; and when that Heir came to sway
the Scepter of the Roman Empire, this Person was Rewarded with a Chain of Gold, as heavy as that Chain of Iron; which had in Prison been laid upon him. Truly, All our light Derision for the Lord Jesus Christ, which is but for a Moment, we have no cause to be Ashamed of't; for, it works for us, a far more Exceeding & Eternal weight of Glory. It was the Prayer, and Hope of the Apostle, 2 Tim. 1. 16, 18. Onesiphorus was not Ashamed of that Chain; the Lord grant unto him, that he may find Mercy of the Lord in that Day. Even so, At that Day we shall find a Mercy that will make A-mends for all the Derision that could not Shame us out of our Love unto our Lord. Such a Day will come; Yea, most certainly, The Day of the Lord is near, it is near, & it is greatly hastening upon us!

How can my Young People hear this Consolation of God, and not let me Conclude with a Triumph, like that; Behold, I have made thy Face strong...
against their Faces; as an Adamant, harder than a Flint have I made thy Forehead; Thou wilt fear the Rebellious & the Deriding House no more.

VII. Let us apprehend the Shame, the bitter and burning Shame, that we shall at last Incur, if our being De-

eried by Ungodly men make us A-

hamed of owning the Lord Jesus Christ. Are my Young People A-

hamed of strict Endeavours to keep a Conscience void of Offence, and A-

hamed of Lifting themselves amongst the most Conscientious People of God? It is, because they say, They shall be Laught at, as more Nice than Wise. Well; Think, Oh! Think, on that Confounding Shame that shall then be call upon you, in the ter-

rible Day of the Lord. What think you of that word? Dan. 12. 2. Some shall awake to Shame, & everlasting Contempt. Are you now Fearful of a little Shame? Yea, but the Fearful are they that lead the Van, in the Ar-

mies of them, that have their Porti-
in the burning Lake of the wrath of God. Oh! Think; What a Shame it will be, for a man to stand, as it were, Pilloried before the whole world with this Inscription on his Breast; This is because this Man was Ashamed of Speaking or Doing for a Glorious Christ in an Evil World. But all the other most Secret Sins of such a sinful and fearful Creature, will then also be divulged in the greatest Assemblies. We read, Rev. 20. 12: The Books are then opened. In those Books will be found written, as with the Point of a Diamond, all the Sinful and Shameful Things that ever the wretch has perpetrated. And if a Thief is Ashamed when he is found, how much will such a wretch be Ashamed, when all his most covered Abominations are Exposed unto the view of Heaven and Earth? Alas, The Doom of them that have been Ashamed of the Lord Jesus Christ, will then be that; Psal. 109. 29. Let them be Cloathed with Shame,
not Ashamed of his Lord.

Shame, & let them cover themselves with their own Confusion, as with a Mantle.

Come then, Let my Counsel be acceptable to my Young People. If you will be Ashamed, I will tell you what in good Earnest you have to be Ashamed of. Be Ashamed of Sin, and not Ashamed of the Lord JESUS CHRIST. Be Ashamed of that Sin, whereof it will one Day be said, Rom. 6. 21. What Fruit had you in those things whereof you are now Ashamed? That Sin, whereof it is this Day to be said, Ezek. 36. 32. Be Ashamed & Confounded for your own ways.

Every Sin is a Shameful Thing; and your Shame of the Lord JESUS CHRIST is Transcendently so. While you Glory in your Sin, you Glory in your Shame. It is among the Faithful Sayings of God, Prov. 14. 34. Sin is a Reproach to any People.

But, Oh! Be not Ashamed of Christianity; Not Ashamed of letting it be seen, that you are Afraid of Sin, as of the most Odious, Dangerous,
A Servant of the Lord,
Damnable Evil; Not Ashamed of Rebuking Sin in those that are about you, and of Labouring in your places that it may be Afraid of showing its Head. Go on, My Children, in the Right ways of the Lord, Go on; O ye Righteous, Hold on your way And whatever Division may be hurled at you, Go on in your way, like the Lion, Stately in his goings, which turneth not away for any. Go on, like the Sun, Rejoicing to Run the Race before him.

VIII. But Stand still, until you be told, what a Vengeance will be taken on your Enemies!

Tis most certain, They who go to make others, Ashamed of the Lord Jesus Christ, cannot avoid the Character, and the Confusion, of being themselves Ashamed of Him.

It may be, There are some crowded in among my Hearers, that may be given to Mocking at Serious Religion. I am Troubled, I am Troubled. Some Young Gentlemen have said unto me, That they think, that they
must abandon all Company, because they can scarce come into any Company, otherwise proper for them, wherein they shall not hear Serious Religion made a Ridicule. And among those of an Inferior Quality, there will be found such as are not inferior for using the Scourge of the Tongue upon those that will join to the Churches & Meetings of the Faithful, and appear in any way to Condemn the Prevailing Sins of the Time. I shall in the Name of the Great GOD, speak a few Reasonable Things to these Unreasonable Sinners; and I will say with him, Job 21. 3. Suffer me that I may speak, & after that I have spoken, Mock on.

Miserable Souls; Your Mocking at Serious Religion, what is it, but a desperate Argument of Ripeness in Wickedness? The seat of the Scornful, [Psal. 1. 1.] was well rendered old, The seat of Plagues. Wretches, You have black Tokens of Spiritual Plagues upon you, and you are Horrible.
A Servant of the Lord,

Plagues your selves to all that are about you. Tis fit, I tell you, That a Scourner should be an abomina-
tion to Men! We have read concern-
ing a Pagan, That when he heard of Righteousness, Temperance, and a Judg-
ment to come, he Trembled. We have read concerning a Divel. He believes there is a God, and he Trembles. O Men that sin away the very Name of Men; will you persist in Mocking at Serious Religion till you Out-sin a Pagan & a Divel? It was said, Prov. 19. 29. Judgments are prepared for Scorners. Oh! Tremble at the Threat-
nings and the Thunders of God! Wretched Scorners, You grow ripe for the dreadful Judgments of God; and you have horrid symptoms upon you, of a Damnation that Slumbers not. It is left upon Record, concern-
ing a People Abhorred of God, 2 Chron. 36. 16. They Mocked the Messengers of God, until the wrath of the Lord arose, & there was no Remedy. Oh! Leave off your Lewd Mocking at the Mes-
gages
fages of God, and the Actions of his Religion, left a Storm of His Reme-
dilest Wrath, be quickly Rained from Heaven upon you.

We must leave this warning with you, and you will at length, yea, shortly, Confess, That you were faithfully Warned in it. You will at last be A-
shamed of all the Derision, by which you have cast Shame on the Religion of the Lord Jesus Christ. Awful, Awful are those words, Isa. 26. 14.

Lord, they shall see be ashamed of their Envy at the People; Ye, the Fire of thine Enemies, shall devour them. You that Mock at making of Prayers, will be Ashamed of your Folly, when you shall your selves by woful Distresses be driven to Supplications, where to the Just God will make no Return but that; When ye make many Prayers, I will not hear you. You that Mock at Hearing of Sermons, will be Ashamed of your Folly, when you shall find that you have outflown all the Seasons and Offers of Grace, and shall
shall in vain wish, Oh! that I could now enjoy one of the Sermons for which once I cared not! Will you mock at the Psalms in the Congregations of God? You will be ashamed of that folly, when you see your selves chased out of the Heavenly Assemblies, where they glorify God with an Eternal Psalmody; when you shall have nothing but the Yellings and the Howlings of the Damned, about you, & your selves roar among the Dragons. You that mock at Mourning for Sin, will you not be ashamed of your folly, when you shall your selves mourn at the last, and say, How have I slighted instruction! You now mock at The Holy Brethren. Oh! but you shall be ashamed of this folly; convinced of it, by a dreadful Banishment from the Inheritance of the Holy, when you shall be Led forth with the workers of Iniquity.

I will add but this; That the Fault is Exceedingly aggravated; when the Preachers of the Gospel, shall
shall themselves come to sit in the seat of the Scornful, and indulge themselves in a Scourting sort of Conversation, that shall have a Tendency to strengthen the Hands of the Wicked, in the worst of all their wickedness. It may be so, that the Labours of men indefatigably Employ'd in the Winning of Souls, and men that may Challenge the most Satyrical of all them that love not the Churches of God, justly to Tax any one thing in their Conduct, as worthy of a Satyr or a Censure; these may be Mocked by Envious Men in Black, that may go to (what, Thanks be to God, they cannot!) render such Labours ineffectual. Such Mockers would show more Grace, and have more Peace in their own Souls, if they would themselves rather Out-do, than Deride the Sedulous Application, with which the Men of their Derision Endeavour that they may give up a good Account unto their Great Lord, of all the Talents with which He has Entrusted them.
them. I will be so much their Friend, as to leave this one Consideration with them: Hear this, ye Scornful men. The Mockers of them who do as much as they can for the Kingdom of God, and the Welfare of Men, take a ready course, to be what our Saviour intends by, the least in the Kingdom of Heaven.

But let all Mockers at Religion, reasonably hear the Admonitions of God. Oh! Don’t Mock on, till the Dimness of the Anguish of a Soul utterly abandon’d by God shall come upon you. Consider, ye that Mock at the Religion of the Lord Jesus Christ, lest He break you in pieces, & there be None to Deliver you. In the mean while, Go thy way, O Child of God, not Ashamed of thy Father; O Servant of Christ, not Ashamed of thy Saviour; O Companion of Angels, not Ashamed of thy Company! Go thy way until the End be: Thou shalt stand in thy Lot among the Triumphant Overcomers at the END.

F I D A S.