FAITH IN GOD, AND GOOD WORKS CONNECTED: BEING THE SUBSTANCE OF A SERMON PREACHED JUNE 17, 1778, AT THE ANNUAL MEETING HELD AT HECKMONDWIKE IN YORKSHIRE

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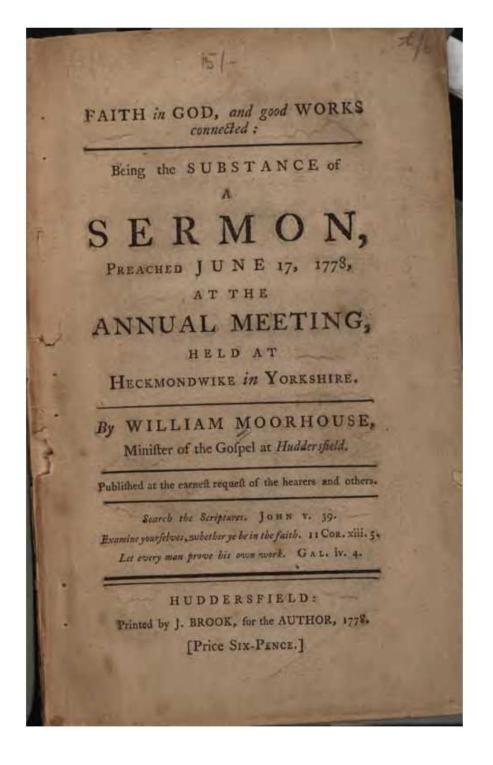
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WILLIAM MOORHOUSE

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Trieste



PREFACE.

WERE it not a truth, that God owns the feeble efforts of fuch as are defpifed by men of *parts* and *letters*, the public fhould never have feen the enfuing performance.

When I delivered the following difcourfe, I had no more thoughts of making it further public, than I had of making a creed for his holinefs the Pope of Rome : nor do I believe, that any fuch thought would ever have entered my heart, had it not been for the importunity of fome who heard it, and of others also who heard it not. A 2 The $\sqrt{2}$

MICH

N PREFACE

The first part, according to the text, is upon that important fubject, BELIEV-ING, and as various altercations have of late paffed, relative to the nature of FAITH, it might be one caufe why fome were fo defirous to fee this in print ; I'm fure it was one reafon why I made an attempt to preach upon the fubject; for I refolved that my elder brethren fhould be fully acquainted with my fentiments on that head; hoping, that if I were wrong, fome one would be fo friendly as to endeavour to reclaim a wanderer. I cannot affirm, that the following fheets contain perbatim what was faid : that was next to an impoffibility, as I did not write more than would fill the Eight part of a sheet of paper previous to my preaching : . but, tho'

E. R Е F A C tho' fome of the fentences, and perhaps many of the phrases are unavoidably altered, yet fo far as was possible, the fenfe is retained. If what is offered should thwart the received opinion of any, I freely grant the objector what I claim as an unalienable privilege for myfelf, (viz.) the liberty of private Judgment, Neverthelefs, with all the thinking I am capable of, I, like others, may err; for I have not yet fet up for infallibility .- As I do not pretend to be liberally educated, I flatter myfelf that fuch as are fo, will readily excufe any inaccuracies they may difcern : It is infufferable to beat a blind borfe becaufe he ftumbles-I shall not trouble the reader with paffing encomiums upon myfelf, refpecting my deep fense of ignorance, unworthinefs,

PREFACE.

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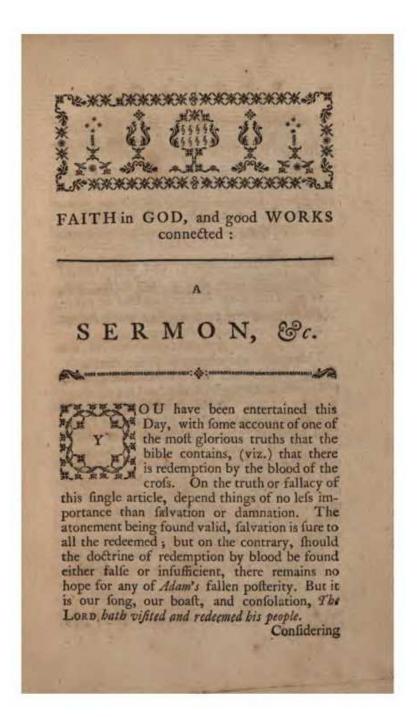
worthinefs, inability, want of age, learning, experience, &cc. many have degraded themfelves, who would have been highly offended, had any perfon elfe done it for them. Pompous profeffions are fo common with *divinity* publifhers, that they are little more regarded, than the *preamble* in the beginning of an old act of parliament. —If any good is done hereby—if the Judgment of any is informed, or if any are flirred up to evidence their FAITH by their WORKS, let the good, the everlafting JEHOVAH be praifed.

HUDDERSFIELD, Sept. 18, 1778.

W. MOORHOUSE.

FAITH

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(8)

Confidering what is gone before *, I could not think of any fubject more likely for generalusefulness, than a few remarks upon *faitb* and good works. The portion of fcripture I have fixed upon for this purpose, you read in

PAUL's epifile to TITUS, CHAP. III. VER. 8.

This is a faithful faying, and thefe things I will that thou affirm conflantly, that they which have believed in God be careful to maintain good works : thefe things are good and profitable unto men.

This epiftle was written to Titus, during St. **Paul's absence from him; whilst that great a**postle was labouring in Greece, and his fon Titus in Crete : (now Candia) but though the one was on that Ifland, and the other on the European Continent; yet, their God, their work, their ends and aims were all one. The bonds of chriftian affection, had fo united their hearts, that Paul, as a tender parent to his own fon in the common faith, fends this affectionate letter to fupply, in fome meafure the lack of his perfonal prefence; well knowing, that the young minister of JESUS CHRIST would stand in need of godly counfel. How well is it, when the fervante

The preceding fermion was upon redemption, preached by The Rev. Mr. Gill, from those most excellent words " It is finished".