

**THE GRACE AND DUTY OF
BEING SPIRITUALLY
MINDED, DECLARED AND
PRACTICALLY IMPROVED**

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The Grace and Duty of Being Spiritually Minded, Declared and Practically Improved by John Owen

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JOHN OWEN

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H. Stone

A. Brown

1850.

DR. OWEN'S
GRACE AND DUTY
OF BEING
SPIRITUALLY MINDED.

RECOMMENDATION.

The writings of the Puritans are a mine of wealth, in which any one who will submit to some degree of labour, will find himself well rewarded for his pains. In particular, the writings of Dr. Owen, Mr. Howe, and Mr. Flavel, well deserve this character. Of Dr. Owen's there are two Pieces which I would especially recommend to the reader's perusal, one on Heavenly Mindedness, abridged by Dr. Mayo; the other, the Mortification of Sin in Believers.

Vide Mr. WILBERFORCE'S VIEW.

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M.DCCC.XLVIII.

PREFACE.

THE writings of the learned and pious Dr. Owen, are so well known and esteemed, that no eulogium on his character and abilities can be necessary to introduce the present abridgment into the world. When alive, he was remarkably blessed in the work of the ministry, and deservedly honoured both by friends and strangers; and now being dead, he yet speaketh in his excellent treatises, to the edification and comfort of mankind, and his praise will be great in every age.

Among his many printed works, THIS on the Grace and Duty of *Spiritual Mindedness*, shines with peculiar lustre; being admirably adapted to search the heart, to detect the hypocrite, to instruct, strengthen, and comfort the real Christian, and to quicken him in his advances towards heaven and glory. Viewing the performance in this light, and observing

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with continual sorrow the increase and spread of evil principles, and the carnal security of professors, with their inordinate attachment to earthly things, by which thousands of souls miscarry; observing also, the growing indifference of many towards religious exercises and holy duties; and their readiness to listen to unstable or artful men, who teach their followers to disregard the frame and disposition of their minds, and, in effect, to regard nothing but faith, putting off all trial of their state, thoughts, and actions, to the last day; observing how many content themselves with a bare attendance in the sanctuary of God, and rest on their public religious duties, without examining into their principles and motives; observing the superstitious attachment of many unto external forms and rites, and their excessive zeal for them, while they neglect justice, mercy, and brotherly love: in brief, observing the same manner of conversation and conduct among professors in the present day, as the reverend author of this treatise lamented in his; the EDITOR could not help wishing, that this valuable and useful discourse on

Spiritual Mindedness was universally known, and rendered more easy to purchase.

He was informed, there were but few copies to be procured at any price; and if the whole work had been republished, it would still have been too expensive for many who want to be instructed in the great duty here inculcated, with which are connected life and peace eternal: these reasons, together with the repeated desires of friends zealous of promoting the spiritual welfare of their fellow-immortals, engaged him to attempt the present abridgment.

All who are acquainted with Dr. Owen's Works must be sensible, that as he exhausted every subject he undertook, so there were many repetitions, the same thoughts frequently occurring in different places; his style also, like that of most of his contemporaries, was rather prolix, and his method often intricate, and not easy to be remembered; which things, to a judicious reader, must be tedious and unpleasant. The Editor hath therefore taken the liberty of omitting what appeared to be redundant, of transposing

some passages, of reducing the numbers of chapters, and also of making a little alteration in the Doctor's method and style ; but the reader may be assured that nothing material hath been omitted ; that the Author's real sentiments are preserved, and it is hoped his spirit also.

To recal Christian professors to that strict mortification, to that separation from the world and its sinful customs, to that contemplation of, and delight in spiritual things, to that heavenly mindedness, which the gospel of Christ requires, was the original design of this work ; and that these happy fruits may attend this abridgment of it, is the Editor's desire, and shall be his daily prayer.