

A Treatise Concerning the Religious Affections
(wrap-up)

1. Jonathan Edwards' ending

"[If we will learn to judge ourselves and others by] those things, which Christ and his apostles and prophets chiefly insisted on ... regarding practical exercises and effects of grace it would be of manifold happy consequence; it would above all things tend to the conviction of deluded hypocrites, ...; it would tend to deliver us from innumerable perplexities, ...; it would greatly tend to prevent professors neglecting strictness of life, and tend to promote their engagedness and earnestness in their Christian walk; and it would become fashionable for men to show their Christianity, more by an amiable distinguished behavior, than by an abundant and excessive declaring their experiences; and we should get into the way of appearing lively in religion, more by being lively in the service of God and our generation, than by the liveliness and forwardness of our tongues, and making a business of proclaiming on the house tops, with our mouths, the holy and eminent acts and exercises of our own hearts; ... and many occasions of spiritual pride would be cut off; and so a great door shut against the devil; and a great many of the main stumbling blocks against experimental and powerful [Christianity] would be removed; and [Christianity] would be declared and manifested in such a way that, instead of hardening spectators, and exceedingly promoting infidelity and atheism, would, above all things, tend to convince men that there is a reality in [Christianity], and greatly awaken them, and win them, by convincing their consciences of the importance and excellency of [Christianity]. Thus the light of professors would so shine before men, that others, seeing their good works, would glorify their Father which is in heaven."

2. Mistakes to avoid when ...

a. ... applying to yourself

i. Not being honest or thorough

ii. Mistaking lack of perfection for lack of the sign

b. ... applying to others

i. Inspecting when we need not inspect

ii. Failing to inspect when we must inspect

c. ... applying to ministries

i. Throwing the baby out with the bath water

ii. Mistaking bubbles for babies

3. Loose ends

a. "What do you mean by egalitarianism?"

b. "What do you mean, 'I always do what I want to do?'"

4. "Christian Knowledge", sermon by Jonathan Edwards

Seek not to grow in knowledge chiefly for the sake of applause, and to enable you to dispute with others; but seek it for the benefit of your souls, and in order to practice. ... Practice according to what knowledge you have. This will be the way to know more. ... You all have by you a large treasure of divine knowledge, in that you have the Bible in your hands; therefore be not contented in possessing but little of this treasure. God has spoken much to you in the Scripture; labor to understand as much of what he says as you can. God has made you all reasonable creatures; therefore let not the noble faculty of reason or understanding lie neglected. Content not yourselves with having so much knowledge as is thrown in your way, and as you receive in some sense unavoidably by the frequent inculcation of divine truth in the preaching of the word, of which you are obliged to be hearers, or as you accidentally gain in conversation; but let it be very much your business to search for it, and that with the same diligence and labor with which men are wont to dig in mines of silver and gold.