Divine Love Alone Lasts Eternally
Sermon 14 in Charity and its Fruits
Right off the bat...

- Note the length of the introduction and exegesis.

- Two reasons for this:
  1. Starts with a brief overview and summary of the series.
     Again the importance of speculative and practical knowledge is reiterated.
     What will cease is the gift of knowledge.
And this I suppose to be that blessed Trinity that we read of in the holy Scriptures. The Father is the Deity subsisting in the prime, unoriginated and most absolute manner, or the Deity in its direct existence. The Son is the Deity generated by God's understanding, or having an idea of himself, and subsisting in that idea. The Holy Ghost is the Deity subsisting in act or the divine essence flowing out and breathed forth, in God's infinite love to and delight in himself. And I believe the whole divine essence does truly and distinctly subsist both in the divine idea and divine love, and that therefore each of them are properly distinct persons (21:131).
A Disposition for Repetition

Self  Idea  Act
The Trinity in Redemption

- Father is whom the purchase is made.
- Son makes the purchase and is the price.
- The Holy Spirit is what was purchased.
- What we have is God Himself.

JE argues that Adam and Eve were created with this connection with the Holy Spirit, and that is what was lost in the fall.
Love and More...

- The Holy Spirit always brings love because that is the essence of what He is.
- The Holy Spirit can bring extraordinary gifts such as tongues, prophecy, and gifts of knowledge.
- It is the Holy Spirit that brings conviction of sin, illumination, and religious affections.

But,

- The purpose of extraordinary gifts and common grace is to create and promote love.
- Therefore extraordinary gifts are not always needed.
- Common graces will not be needed in heaven.
The Reason

- Reason is love is the intended end of all the other gifts.
- Once love is perfect, there is no need for the other gifts.
- "Those were only certain means of grace, but divine love is the grace; it is itself the sum of all grace" (360).
Application

- Looking for the return of the extraordinary gifts is looking to go backwards not forwards.
- Excellence of the church comes in love not the extraordinary gifts that are a means to it.

"Prophecy and miracles argue for the imperfection of the church, rather than the perfection" (362).
Application

- Proof text of revival of 1734-35.
- If the Spirit of God be poured out only in his gracious influences in converting souls, and infusing divine love into them in such a measure as he may, this will be enough without revelations or miracles to produce all the effects which need to be produced in order to bring about the glorious times, as we may be convinced by the little which we have seen in the late outpouring of the Spirit of God in this and the neighboring towns (363).
Application

- No new truths. *This should make persons exceedingly cautious how they give heed to anything which looks like revelation, or any extraordinary gift of the Spirit* (364).

- That love is alone eternal, essential to all other gifts, and the end of all other gifts, shows how highly we should value it.

And the teaser.... *I might much enlarge on this use, but the time will not allow; and I may probably have occasion more fully to insist on an use of this nature in what may hereafter be said from this and the following verses, if God give opportunity* (365).