

Heart Blindness.

I once saw a man walking along the edge of a precipice as if it were a plain.— For anything he knew, it was a plain, and safe. He was calm and fearless, not because there was no danger, but because he was blind.

And who cannot now understand how men so wise, so cautious in most things, can go so securely, so carelessly, even so gaily on, as if everything were safe for eternity, while snares and pitfalls are all about them, and death may be just at hand, and the next step may just send them down the infinite abyss! Oh, we see it, we see it—they are blind!

A blind man is more taken up with what he holds in his hand, than with mountains, ocean, sun or stars. He feels this; but those he can neither touch nor see.

And now it is plain why unconverted men undervalue doctrine, saying that "it is no matter what a man believes, so his heart is right;" that "one doctrine is as good as another; and for that matter, no doctrines are good for much;" and that "they don't believe in doctrinal preaching, at any rate." They, forsooth, they! blind worms, pronouncing contemptuously, of the stupendous heights and glories of God's revelation, where alone we learn what we are to believe concerning Him, and what duty He requires of us.

It is plain, too, why they see no preciousness in the promises, no glory in Christ no beauty in holiness, no grandeur in the work of redemption; why they make a mock of sin, despise God's threatenings, brave His wrath, make light of the blood of Christ, jest at death, and rush headlong on certain perdition. They are blind. So the Scripture speaks. They are blind people that have eyes. Having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God, through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart.—So there is such a thing as heart blindness, as well as blindness of the bodily eye.—*Blind Bartimeus.*

"I HOPE TO GO TO HEAVEN."

Doubtless you do, dear Reader. If you are professedly a believer in the word of God, if you give credit to its statements concerning a heaven of everlasting happiness, and a hell of everlasting misery, we wonder not at your desiring to obtain the one, and your wishing to escape the other.

But what is the nature of your hope, and upon what is it founded? Are you able to say, as one has well said—

"My hope is built on nothing less
Than Jesus' blood and righteousness:
I dare not trust the sweetest frame,
But wholly lean on Jesus' name,
On Christ, the solid rock, I stand,
All other ground is sinking sand."

God speaks of the "hope of the righteous which shall be gladness."—(Prov. x. 28.) And of the "hope of the hypocrite which shall perish."—(Job viii. 13.)

Thousands, alas! may we not say tens of thousands, profess to entertain a hope of going to heaven, while, at the same time, they are pursuing a course the very opposite of that which the word of God declares will conduct thither. The words "I hope to go to heaven," in the mouths of such persons are vague and unmeaning words. Even during their utterance conscience is giving the lie to them; it speaks plainly, and says, "you are without a title to heaven, and without fitness for it."—What is a hope like this worth? What is it but the hope of the hypocrite which shall perish?

Reader what is *your* hope of heaven? Think not to make God a liar by framing for yourself any other path to heaven than the path marked out in His word. If you do, fearful is your mistake, and unutterably fearful will be its consequences. The way, the only way to heaven the word of God declares is by Christ. The Lord Jesus, Christ himself declares, "I am the way