

And yet, brethren, painful as our losses are from time to time, we should not forget that,

“’Tis sweet, as year by year we lose
Friends out of sight, in faith to muse
How grows in Paradise our store.”

“Our loss is their gain.” And yet in view of eternity our loss is *our* gain also. They are safe in God’s keeping, awaiting the time when we shall follow them, that there may be no more parting, and we may be for ever with each other and for ever with the Lord.

“Far better they should sleep awhile
Within the Church’s shade;
Nor wake, until new heaven, new earth,
Meet for their new immortal birth,
For their abiding place he made,
Than wander back to life, and lean
On our frail love once more.”

And here let me beg of you all, by brethren, to turn this solemn occasion to good account; and while life is still spared you, do not neglect the great salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. The time is short. In the midst of life we are in death: life is fleeting, and death is busy. Soon will your turn come; see to it, therefore, that you are prepared to go. Had any of *you* been called away, how do you wish that I should have been able to speak of you? If you desire to die in the Lord, strive to *live* in Him, and with Him, and for Him. Let your whole life bear the impress of repentance towards God, and faith in our Lord Jesus Christ. Seek Him, if you have not done so