

guard the Christian, in his continual warfare against the world, the flesh and the devil—is the hope of salvation which arises from faith in Christ, working and manifesting itself by love. This is the ‘hope which can alone exclude dejection:’ and which—

‘——As an anchor firm and sure holds fast
The Christian vessel, and defies the blast.’

“Now abideth faith, hope, and love,” are the words of St. Paul—and on earth no power can separate them, having conducted the Christian through the stormy waves of life, to the haven where “there remaineth a rest for the people of God,” faith and hope will be lost in infinite eternal love.

Of what unspeakable importance is it then, that those who profess themselves to be children of the light, should obey the injunction of St. Paul, and be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love, and for an helmet the hope of salvation. How can any man who professes to believe the gospel, expect or look forward to the possession of eternal happiness, if he will not use the means appointed by God himself, for the attainment of a blessing which no words can express nor human mind conceive; who would not censure the folly of those, who, being obliged to pass through a country infested with banditti and beset with dangers of every description, neglect to take the necessary precautions for their safety, pointed out by one who had experienced the dangers and difficulties of the way:—but if instead of arming themselves, and gladly accepting the proffered escort of a powerful guard, sufficient to ensure their safety, they load themselves with splendid jewels, and vast sums of money, and encumber their train with all that luxury has made almost necessities of life; who could find words sufficient to express the madness of their folly. But does not the conduct of the majority of mankind strongly resemble what I have endeavoured to sketch? Do not some among you, my hearers, pass through life, regardless of your soul’s best interests,—provided your bodies be safe and your worldly affairs in good order? The great enemy of mankind, like a roaring lion walketh about seeking whom he may devour; your hearts in their natural depravity incline you to listen to his suggestions, and of yourselves you cannot resist the allurements of the world, the lusts of the flesh, and subtlety of the devil; and instead of praying to God for the assistance of his Holy Spirit, which he has promised to all who ask with faith, and obeying the gospel of Jesus Christ, you hurry into all the extravagance, dissipation and madness, which the world calls pleasure, but in which while you continue you are dead while you live. To you I say, “Awake, thou that sleepest, and arise from the dead and Christ shall give thee light.” If you have not already been led on from one degree of wickedness to another, even to the denying