

*IN TIME OF TROUBLE.*

At such a time it is to pray. A sort of praying, not the best sort, comes naturally to us in our affliction.

All in the ship with Jonah began to pray, when they found themselves in danger. And each man prayed to his own god.

This was only natural. Each man felt that the god to whom he prayed at other times would help him now, if help was to come at all.

The strange thing about the prayers of many men and women now, is that they do not pray to their god whom they have served. In time of tribulation, they flee to the God, the one true God, whom they have *not* served before.

Think of this. Be consistent. And, if you think that Almighty God can help you in time of trouble; then let him be your God now, and you can go to your God for help when you need it.

*ACCOMMODATION.*

Some people think that the Lord Jesus Christ, when He was on earth, humored the Jews by letting their errors and superstitions pass, or even by using them as starting-points in His teachings of truth.

To begin, let me ask all teachers to avoid this sort of teaching—if it is needful to give such advice. Yet surely, it is not needful in the case of teachers who have a moderate share of common-sense. We all know how bad a thing it is to mix up truth and falsehood, and how specially dangerous it is to try to prove or illustrate truth by means of false or imperfect arguments. In matters of religion this would be without excuse. No one would

think of doing it, if he considered seriously what he was doing. Only thoughtlessness could make us take so unwise a plan.

As a matter of course, then, we see that our Lord could not have used such arguments; and the more we think of the matter, the more we are confirmed in this judgment. Think of His special mission to the Jews, His countrymen, the chosen nation, the people whom He desired to save from the ruin their sins were bringing upon them. He would not say *anything* to deceive them or to sanction any of their errors.

And the same comfort we can take to ourselves now. The things and the sayings recorded for our learning are everyone of them true, and there is no occasion of stumbling in them.

*WHY WE SUFFER PAIN.*

Nobody knows, and nobody can find out. A good many comforting things may be said and are said, but the comforts man can give are unsatisfying. Pain gives us notice of danger that we might otherwise not be able to escape. Pain strengthens and deepens character. Pain gives endless opportunities for doing good to those who suffer. In a word, pain makes saints of those who suffer and those that send relief.

All this is good; and there are many more things said on the subject. One writer discourses on the "Moral uses of Dark Things," and shows that the light and shade of the world make up a beauty and perfection that could not be without both.

Still, the wonder is that we are not convinced by these wise and