

to do this. A severe trial may mean that we have lost the clear sight of Him who is invisible, that idols are creeping in and stealing away the love He must have, if we are to please and honor Him.

We all should realize the need we have of His presence, of having Him as an ever present reality to us, of having our eternal home real with its joys, its blessedness; and we must also see the vanity of this present evil world, what it really is as the enemy of Christ. We need to so deeply feel the danger we are in from the love of the world that we shall be asking Him to save us from all idols, keep us from their insidious power, so that our hearts may be free to love Him and be occupied with Him wholly. Whole hearted, how very few are that! The fine gold gets dimmed so easily, but how good to keep it bright for Him. How good to be poor, to have little, very little of this world's good, if with this the heart be free to enjoy Him. How sad to have abundance and have it take our hearts from the enjoyment of Him. It is good to suffer, to be tempted, destitute, afflicted, if our God sees fit to take that way to keep our hearts for Himself.

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ETERNAL SALVATION.

We are told in Hebrews v. 9, that the Lord Jesus Christ is become "the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey Him."

Salvation that may cease at the end of a day, a week, a month, a year, cannot have the word eternal affixed to it. Eternal salvation is

for all days, all weeks, all months, all years. It covers the whole span of our earthly existence, and finally places the saved soul with Christ in glory.

There are many who have the knowledge and certainty of this, based not indeed on what they have inwardly felt, but on what God says to them in His faithful Word. Others, however, and not a few, cannot speak on such a subject with certainty.—They fain would, but from various causes are afraid lest they should be too sure.

In some instances this fear flows from not distinguishing between personal holiness and that which satisfies divine righteousness in respect of our sins. Does the reader understand what we mean? Perhaps not. Let us then try to make the matter plainer.

"I am praying to be made better," said an anxious man to us a day or two ago. He wished to become more like Christ, and his prayer was directed to that end, though when questioned he did not know anything as to his being eternally saved.

"Well, surely it is right to pray for that," you say. Yes, in one sense it is, for we ought to grow more like Him here below, even as we shall be perfectly conformed to His image in glory. But our desire and endeavour to be more like Christ will not give us the knowledge of eternal salvation. It will not set our minds at rest in reference to our sins against a holy God. This our friend did not quite see.

Think of your sins as so many items in a heavy bill which one day you will be required to pay. Can