

and the Lord Jesus coming to judge the world—how glad you would then be to be a Christian? Would not you? I cannot promise you a day of sickness, but I can promise you a day when you will see heaven opened, and the Lord Jesus coming to render to every man the due reward of his deeds. Now, how can you cleanse your way, so as to be ready for that day? By taking heed thereto ACCORDING TO GOD'S WORD.

Dear friends, practical infidelity is at the root of the loss of your souls. We do not rest on God and Jesus Christ as invisible realities. The fool says in his heart, There is no God. He does not know it, but he says it in his heart. I did not know that I was saying so in my heart, but I was for years.

If any one had told me, in the days of my recklessness, that I did not believe there was a God, I would have said, Thank God, I am not so bad as that. But when I felt the weight of God's anger on me for sin, and when I thought my time of death had come, when I must have a dealing with God or perish for ever; and when I lay down in my room to cry for mercy, my difficulty was not to believe that God would have mercy upon me, but to believe that there was such a Being as God invisibly present with me, and that when I was asking for a new heart and a right spirit for Jesus Christ's sake, that that Being I called God was then in the room hearing me, and was really able to do all that I needed.

And I was months and months in that state before I could get hold of the precious truth of a personal though invisible God. I got it at last, not by looking to frames, and feelings, and sensations, but in this way: I asked myself, why was I afraid to die? It was because I knew that God was angry with me for my sins and past life.

I had no doubt about that; there was something here (laying his hand on his breast) that made me know that God would bring me to judgment; that was why I was so anxiously crying for mercy; that was what frightened me. Then the thought struck me, If God knows my past life, He knows my present—either He never saw me at all, or else He must be seeing me now praying to Him for mercy in the name of Jesus—as sure as He has ever seen me, so sure He must always see

me—and if He did not cast me into hell when He saw me in the midst of wilful wickedness, He will not for His own name's sake do it now, that He has made me willing to come and pray to Him. If we know that He hears us, then we know that we have the petitions we ask. (1 John v. 14, 15.) I mention this because Satan will tell you, among the very first things, to look into your own heart to see what answers you have got to your prayers. Your doing this arises from your not realising the presence of God as you would realise the presence of a fellow-creature. If you ask anything from a fellow-creature, you look to his word for your answer, not to your own feelings. What you have to do, is with God invisible, but present and revealed to you in His written Word. Therefore, if a young man would cleanse his way, he must believe that God is, and must take heed to his ways, according to God's Word.

What multitudes of people there are, who never have God in all their thoughts, and who, therefore, take no heed to their ways according to His Word. And yet I suppose there is hardly one individual in this congregation who does not sometimes deny himself present gratification for the sake of future good; and you never yet saw a young man, who indulged recklessly in whatever he liked at the present moment, who did not live bitterly to regret it. Any one that ever rises to anything in this world, must take heed to his ways. He will say, I must not go to the tavern, to the card-table, to the theatre, or whatever it may be;—not that I should not like it; I should like exceedingly this amusement, this fun—but they are not good for me. I have my way to make in the world, I have my head to store with learning, and a character to make and to maintain, and therefore, though I should like exceedingly to indulge in these amusements, yet I will not do it; I will deny myself to-day, because if I do not, it will be the worse for me in the future. I ask yourself, if it is not so. I have seen many poor fellows, men no worse than myself, utterly thoughtless and careless about the future, living only for the present moment; and I never saw one of them come to a good end, though many of them are now in their graves. God may pluck some such as