

interrogatory : Will you not willingly part with these vanities, and pleasures of the world, and forsake all, for the favor of God, and eternal happiness beyond the grave ?

I replied, yes ! Lord help me ; O Lord, save my soul from the snares of the devil.

Then it was suggested, that I might enjoy all my youthful pleasures, and when I was grown old, then become religious and enjoy heaven at last.

I replied, this also is a temptation of Satan. How do I know that I shall live until I become old ? I may be drowned, or removed suddenly by some other fatal accident, or cut off by a short and painful sickness ; and provided I should be privileged with a sick bed, whether in youth or old age, I should then have enough to contend with, in the disorders of the body, without having to prepare for vast eternity.

I then concluded that were all the promised pleasures of time and sin, laid in the scale, and contrasted with religion and its enjoyments, in time and eternity, that they are incomparably lighter than the chaff which the wind driveth away !

I was conscious of a two-fold strife ; life and death were set before me, and that I had a difficult task to perform, evil being the food my fallen nature craved ; and so interwoven and combined with sin and temptation, that when I relaxed in my exertions, and my mind turned upon the world, and the things of it, I had no power to resist the enemy ; but when my mind centred in God and his word, he strengthened and encouraged me by his blessed promises. Thus I was enabled, after due consideration, to set up a firm and settled resolution, no longer to neglect my salvation.