

indeed, with whom, as mere mortals, the day ends with a peace like that which prevades animal creation, in complete contentment with their worldly lot. No doubt there are multitudes, who every night lie down more than contented; but it is not with their human circumstances as such, but it is with a peace, "not as the world giveth." Divest these believers of their heavenly comfort; imagine that there were no Christian prayer to close the day with, and that this town were like any one of the many heathen towns which St. Paul visited; conceive yourselves also without Christian knowledge; and then man's lot would seem to you a wanton exception to the happiness of all nature besides; and even if you had no woes of your own, still, if you were like the writer of the book of Ecclesiastes, — at least, I think it would be so with myself, — the sight of suffering inflicted apparently for no purpose, and sympathy with my fellow-creatures in their hard and forever, hopeless lot, would thrill me, as it were, with a dying agony in every nerve of my moral being, and make St. Paul's words mine in all their bitterness, — "O, wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death?"

But it is spiritual death these words refer to chiefly. The Christian view of life, — step aside from that, and it is into a position "having no hope and without God in the world." No hope, and no God! It is so, and the more horribly so, the farther you recede from discipleship with Christ. In earlier ages Deity might be believed in under various characters; but as men grow wiser, they have need of a purer religion; so that now it may be said, that, with an intelligent man, faith in religion is proportionate to the purity of it, — that he believes and can be-