

"It is the blood that maketh an atonement for the soul."

Leviticus xvii. 11.

"MIND YOUR DOORS AND WINDOWS."



It is the duty of the police in the large towns of England to see that all is securely fastened in the evening, on the beat for which they are responsible. Sometimes a careless servant or householder leaves a window open or a door unlocked. Then at midnight, or after, a ring is heard at the front door; and when you enquire what is wanted, a policeman informs you of the neglect he has discovered. The next day an official letter comes from the chief constable, stating that at such an hour on the previous night a door or window was left open, and requiring you in future to "Mind your doors and windows."

In the plain literal sense it is well that all persons in charge of a dwelling house or other premises, shall "Mind their doors and windows."

But look at this in another light. The soul has its inlets as well as the house, and it is of vast importance to keep them carefully guarded.

The heart has its avenues of access, and if evil intruders make their way in, some mischief will be sure to follow. Sin may creep in by the window of the eye, or by "ear gate," and rob you of all true peace. A wicked thought or desire may enter, if it be permitted, and turn your feet into a path of misery and destruction. A foolish idea may come in very secretly, as it were by the back door; it may take possession of the inner man, and what may be the end none can tell.

Think of Eve. She stood near the forbidden tree. She looked at the tempting fruit. She hearkened to the guileful question of the Old Serpent. Thus she fell. In this way she brought sorrow and death to herself and all her posterity.

Think of Achan. He looked at the wedge of gold and the Babylonish garment. He thought of the gain they would be to him. So he coveted and took them. We know what followed. He died for his sin.

Think of David. His eye wandered. Sin crept in. He was caught in the snare of adultery. Then followed the cruel murder of Uriah. By and by came a just retribution. He had no rest or peace in his soul. Then after a while his sin was confessed and forgiven, but years of sorrow followed.

If you fail to watch and pray, in some shape, the same peril may be yours. You know not what temptation may come upon you, or whither it may lead you. A single unguarded hour may embitter your whole future course. You may be involved in some mesh of evil, from which you may find it well nigh impossible to escape. You may form an acquaintance which may do you much harm. You may commit a sin that may be the first link in a chain that may involve you for life.

Hence with all earnestness I would urge the counsel given at the heading of this tract. "Mind your doors and windows." Keep thy heart with all diligence. Set a watch over your thoughts. Listen to no conversation that is tainted by evil. Read nothing that will pollute the mind.

Never parley for a moment with any suggestion that would turn your feet out of the highway of holiness.

And whilst you watch, let there be humble, trustful prayer. Commit yourself wholly to Him who can cleanse you from all past failures in His precious blood, and who alone can keep you from falling in days to come. He will forgive, He will help you by His good Spirit, He will save to the uttermost if you trust in Him.

Therefore walk circumspectly, pray constantly, and trust in the all-prevailing name of Jesus.—*Selected.*

"HE was wounded for OUR transgressions, HE was bruised for OUR iniquities."—Isa. liii. 5.