

“ Time is fleeting;  
And our hearts, though stout and brave,  
Still like muffled drums are beating  
Funeral marches to the grave.”

Reader, your body must return to the dust, and your spirit to God who gave it. Death you cannot escape. No matter how much you fear his approach, the time will come when he will lay his cold, clammy hand upon you, and when his bony fingers will feel for your heart-strings—when, disembodied, you will be ushered into the eternal world. And yet the day, the hour, the moment when your change shall come is hid from you, wisely hid from you. At any moment you may die. This is true whether you consider it or not. Your considering it does not make it true. Still you need to ponder it, to realize its truth. To be careless and unreflecting, immersed in the concerns of time, while at any moment you may be hurried into eternity, and behold its solemn realities is folly which no language can describe.

III. We should *consider* that the moral condition in which we are, when we enter the eternal world, will be unalterable. *As the tree falls, so must it lie. As death leaves us, so must judgment find us.* “He that is unjust let him be unjust still; and he who is filthy, let him be filthy still; and he that is righteous, let him be righteous still, and he that is holy, let him be holy still.” There will be no opportunities of repentance in hell. No gospel will be proclaimed amid its dreary abodes. Oh! reader, if you enter eternity unprepared to die—unsaved, your doom will be irrevocably fixed. Never-ending misery will be the just consequence of a life of sin and carelessness without repentance. Those who enter eternity saved through the blood of Jesus are saved beyond the reach of woe. Those who die impenitent are lost beyond the possibility of recovery. Careless reader, imagine, if you can, the misery of the lost, contemplating the eternity of misery which lies before them, the despair and anguish which fill their souls. No end to their misery, ever-increasing, without termination. Dreadful thought! and yet, unsaved sinner, you are in danger of this woe, and perhaps as careless as if death, judgment, and eternity were phantoms of a fevered brain—unrealities.

IV. We should consider that the present life is the time in which we should prepare for an eternity of bliss. There is a place of blessedness. God desires that our souls may arrive in that holy abode. But we must be prepared for it, else we can never