

through the medium of material things, which we can see and in some measure understand. The employment of material images to set forth spiritual things is one of the characteristics of the Bible. Heaven is pre-eminently the region of the spiritual. Its wealth and enjoyments are spiritual. Our views of it are often far too low and sensual. We dwell so much on the imagery employed to set it forth, that we lose sight of the great spiritual truths which lie beneath—we mistake the shadow for the substance. It is a kind of Persian paradise, a place of sensual delights, which our imagination pictures to us, rather than a Christian Heaven, whose characteristics are purity, spiritual freedom, and Christ-like love. When we reach that bright abode we shall have done with the material in the universe, as we now see it, for ever; we shall never again be clogged with its fetters, nor burdened with its infirmities. Spiritual wealth, consisting in knowledge, holiness, humility and love, is far higher than material or intellectual wealth. It makes a man rich in spite of his outward circumstances, and, though his home may be in the lowest quarter of the town, it lifts him to a place among the aristocracy of the moral universe.

Let us improve this subject—

By enquiry. There is a great deal of profession in the present day. Much talk about religion. But the question is not whether you talk about, or read, or understand God's commandments, but whether you do them. There are many who say "Lord, Lord, without doing the will of the Father which is in Heaven." Does your religion consist in mere mechanical acts, empty words, spiritless strains? Be assured if it has not taught you to deny all ungodliness and worldly lusts, your religion is vain. If ye know these things, happy are ye, if ye do them. "He that

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