

prayer, but she lies on the bed and groans, and the Holy Ghost carries that groan to the Father's ears. Would you not go quicker to the child who could only groan, than to the one who could make an eloquent appeal? So with God. Here you are with these difficulties around you. So you groan.

3rd verse: "If so be, that being clothed, we shall not be found naked—or as it really is, "Seeing that we, being clothed shall not be found naked." The little word "if" there is not meant to express doubt, but it means "seeing that"

4th verse: "For we that are in this tabernacle do groan, being burdened, not for that we would be unclothed, but clothed upon, that mortality might be swallowed up of life." Men try to escape the truth sometimes by certain theories they adopt; nevertheless it is true that we are burdened. You will find it so if you have not already done so. Awful burdens, great disappointments, sorrows, afflictions. During my pastoral experience of nearly forty years, I have seen people who would have died of broken hearts if it had not been for God's grace lifting them up. Come into our cities; take the Lord's day, the rush and the hurry of people for pleasure and fun. The Christian looks on these busy streets, thronged with carriages and pleasure seekers, and he groans. "Oh, my Lord, when will it come to an end?" The Christian knows it is coming to an end, coming fast these days, and he groans, "not for that we would be unclothed."

It is not death we wish, I don't think it is right for the Christian to say, "I want to die to get rid of it all." "Not to be unclothed," but I want Christ to come, when "that mortality might be swallowed up of life." I thank God for that word, "swallowed up," disappeared, swallowed up. As if some great sea monster, rushing through the waters, had caught some miserable snake and swallowed it at a gulp. People in these days affect to treat death as a matter of no consequence. I have no sympathy for that kind of mind or heart. Death, it is the most horrible thing that ever lived in this earth. Oh, thou foul monster, what havoc thou hast wrought! I exult at the thought that the time is coming when death shall be cast into hell. Wasting the habitations of men, and tearing the heart strings. "Swallowed up of life."

5th verse: "Now he that hath wrought us for the self same thing is God, who also hath given unto us the earnest of the Spirit." We have no part in our salvation; God has done it all. The man under condemnation for murder, has no more to do with his escape from the gallows than you and I have in this escape from damnation. It is marvellous; God steps down from His glory, and touches lost and ruined souls, and lifts us up to eternal life through Jesus Christ.

"Who also hath given unto us the earnest of the Spirit." All our hymns about the Holy Spirit are so untrue to the Word. Why that sweet old hymn "Come Holy Spirit, Heavenly Dove," does

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