

be without it. It may seem to some a contradiction in terms, but a bright cloud of witnesses can testify that it is true. Some who hear me can make oath that this is true. They can say, "Chastened but not killed;" "Sorrowful but always rejoicing;" "Having nothing and yet possessing all things." And if it be wrongly said this is a delusion, I care not; it is better a thousand times than the paltry realities of time.

But the question is not whether the Christian has tribulation, but whether he would escape it if he were not a Christian, and whether such an escape would be a blessing? Now, is it a blessing to the child that his parents do not restrain him? is it an advantage to him that he may grow up uninstructed and unprincipled? is it an advantage to the sick man that his friends do not administer the bitter prescriptions of a physician? is it an advantage to the diseased sufferer that no surgeon amputates his decaying limb? and is it an advantage to a man whose heart is fixed upon the world that no Providence interrupts his headlong career, and by quenching his temporal hopes, calls his attention to things above? Who does not see that his prosperity is working out the appropriate results of a curse? This is the important fact which distinguishes the condition of the Christian from that of the sinner. The Christian has his tribulations only in this life; but eternity is the scene of his joys. The sinner has all his joys in this life, and his miseries in the next. The inquiry, therefore, whether you will follow Christ, is equivalent to the question, Will I bear the cross here and receive a crown hereafter, or shall I seek my happiness in this world, and be miserable for ever?

But religion will also add to your happiness in this life, notwithstanding the tribulations you may experience. Of this we have a bright illustration in the life and death of one of the members of this church who has just been summoned to the mansions of glory. Our late brother Addy bore a grateful testimony to the value of the religion of the Gospel. He was for fifteen years a professed follower of