

the great Christ, the Creator of heaven and earth, he who created the heavens and the earth by his mighty power, when *he* calls it a great reward, what must it be?

Perhaps some people said to him: "Now, Paul, you are meeting with too much opposition; you are suffering too much."

Hear him reply: These light afflictions just for a moment, work out for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory.

"These light afflictions," he calls them. We would have called them pretty hard, pretty heavy, wouldn't we?

But he says, "These light afflictions are nothing; think of the glory before me, and think of the crowning time; think of the reward that is laid up for me. I am on my way; he will give it to me when the time comes;" and that is what filled his soul with joy; it was the reward that the Lord had in store for him.

Now, my friends, let us just for a minute think of what he accomplished. Think of going out, as it were, among the heathen; the first missionary to preach to these men, that were so full of wickedness and so full of enmity and bitterness, the glorious gospel of Jesus Christ, and to tell them that the man who died outside the walls of the city of Jerusalem the death of a common prisoner, a common felon, in the sight of the world, was the Christ; to tell them that they had to believe in that crucified man in order to get into the kingdom of God.

Think of the dark mountain that rose up before him;