

finds out precisely where he is on the bosom of the deep, and whither to turn his ship in order to reach his destination. So with us on the voyage of life, to keep to the figure, should turn our souls to heaven, and make prayer to God for light and guidance, and then we shall discover where we are on our voyage and be able to guide our frail bark towards that quiet haven of rest beyond the river. Not from life's varying experiences, or the ever changing feelings of our souls, but from the guidance of the master, who will give the spirit to them who ask Him, are we to be directed. Brethren, lay hold of this great truth that we have an advocate with the Father, who will guide us by his counsel here, and bring us to glory by and bye.

4 *The last lesson we have here relates to what death is to the Christian.* Notice how Stephen's death is described. It is not said that he died, or that he gave up the ghost, or that he was gathered to his fathers. It is stated in most striking language that "he fell asleep." And this is a description of the believers death which is not confined to the case of Stephen. In 1 Cor. xv chapter, several times the same figure is applied to those who died in the hope of a glorious resurrection. In 1 Thess. iv. the like mode of expression is used, and in the Book of Rev. we find the same statement recurring several times. Hence death for the believer is not really death, but simply falling asleep. Christ has taken the sting from death and robbed the grave of its victory, and those who are in Christ do not die the second or penal death. Only the wicked really die. The believers die temporally, but being in union with Christ who is the Life, they live eternally and are delivered from the sentence of eternal death.

How full of comfort is the thought! As we think of our loved ones who have gone before, and as we look forward to our latter end, we may think of death, not as the grim monster we often picture him to be. He is the messenger who calls his people to fall asleep in Jesus, that they may wake in glory. This surely robs the dying chamber of much of its solemn and awful experiences. But a vail is between the two worlds, and at death the angels but draw its folds aside, and bid us pass in peace into the great chamber beyond. It is not death to die, if we be in Christ when we come to the dying hour.

Like the little child, weary with the play, and heavy hearted by the little disappointments of the day, at eventide seeks the mother's side, and climbs upon her knees to nestle in her loving arms, soon to be hushed to slumber by the mother's tender lullaby, falls soon to sleep and forgets the toil and