

Christian men and women have not proved this in your experience? How was it in your heart sorrows, with which, doubtless, many of you have been burdened? They have never crushed you quite. You have always been able to rise superior to them. How about your mental perplexities? In the case of the most troubled of you, God's grace has saved you from distraction. And what about your physical ills? You have received grace and strength to endure and come through them all.

3. But, thirdly, *no affliction of man is as great as he deserves*. You are bowed down with heart sorrow; your dearest friend has died, you have suffered the loss of all things, you are forsaken, alone and heart-broken. Let us say that your affliction equals that of the patriarch Job, who, stripped of all things lovely, and cursed with all things loathsome, sat down in dust and ashes and cursed his day. You are unhappy, wretched, despairing. Let me show you what you deserve. It is midnight at noonday at Jerusalem. There stands the Saviour's cross on the hill of Calvary. There hangs the bleeding victim. Nails and thorns, scourge and fist, though unsparingly bestowed, are entirely unnecessary for the taking of the life of that sacrifice. A surer weapon is doing the work of death. Its presence was indicated by the withdrawal of the sun, by the shaking of the earth, by the opening of the graves, by the Egyptian darkness into which the earth was plunged. The weapon of death which took the life of our crucified Lord was neither cross, nor thorn, nor spear, but God's departure! God who cannot look upon sin did not endure