

**TO-DAY, IF YE WILL HEAR HIS VOICE, HARDEN NOT YOUR HEARTS.**" Therefore, I do beseech you, dear friends, if, by the grace of God good thoughts pass through your mind while I am speaking, that you will strive to realise the great truth,—God is close to me, speaking to me,—Now is my accepted time, now may be my day of salvation, and if I let it pass it may never return again. May you be led by the Spirit to cry to God in your heart, that He may so lodge that thought in your mind, that it shall, like good seed, spring up to eternal life.

I do not intend to preach what you call a sermon; but I must take some foundation for what I propose to say, and other foundation can no man lay than that which is laid—Jesus Christ and His Word. Take, therefore, the 9th verse of the 116th Psalm, where you will find it written, *Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed thereto according to Thy Word.* The Holy Spirit is here both the asker and answerer. You and I are all immortal beings. We have been born, but we shall never die. There never will come a moment when any one of us will cease to exist. The great object of the devil is to get men to forget this. But think upon it; either you are born to an immortality of glory, joy, and bright, brilliant happiness, such as has not entered into the heart of man to conceive, or to an eternity of wretchedness, misery, torment, and darkness, and despair, such as no tongue can describe. It is true. Try to realise that it is true—that though you constantly forget it, you are immortal. Did it not once appear a very long time to you before you would be as old as you are to-day? I recollect when I was a little boy, and saw my uncle doing what he liked—going out shooting, that was the particular thing that struck me—I used to think, oh, shall I ever be a man to go out shooting when I like. But that little boy did grow up to be a man, and to be as you see to-day, an old man. And the day that looked so far off has now come. Cannot you remember when you were quite little children—when you were a little fellow, and the big fellows used to annoy you, or pat you upon the head and play with you, as the case might be? And you used to think, ah, it will be a long time before I am a big fellow. But you are big

fellows now; and as sure as this day has come, that then seemed so far off, so sure the last day of your life will come, and the first five minutes of heaven, or the first five minutes of hell will come; **BUT AFTER THAT THERE WILL BE NO FURTHER CHANGE.** It is true, is it not? And you would wish to be better than you are, would you not? I do not believe there is a single individual in this congregation, who is not obliged to say, if he speaks the truth, I wish I were a Christian. Yes, you do wish it, but there is something in you that prevents you. There is one stronger than you by whom you are tied and bound, and if the Gospel is hid to you, it is because you are tied, and bound, and led captive by Satan at his will (2 Cor. iv. 3, 4:) and when a good thought or design comes, then comes the devil immediately and takes the good seed out of your heart, lest you should believe and be saved. (Mark iv. 15.) It is true; and it is also true that you must overcome Satan, or it would be better for you that you had never been born. You have got a way to walk. This passage tells of a way—*Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way?* His way is made miry, filthy, destructive to him, by the world and the flesh. These are in the young man's way; but you have not only got to wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities and powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, and against spiritual wickedness in high places. (Ephes. vi. 12.) These are all against every man; and who is sufficient for these things? *Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way?* The great question is to get the world, the flesh, and the devil out of his way, and his eyes opened that he may see more glory in the things of eternity than in the things of time—that he may be able to see the beauty and desirableness that is in Jesus Christ. If the Bible is true, the young man is taught that unless he sees Jesus he perishes for ever, and will be led by the crooked way and the broad way into destruction. But oh! *Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way?* Would you not like your way to be cleansed? You know you would—if not to-day, because it would deprive you of some amusement, yet oh how glad would you be when the doctor feels your pulse, and tells you that your last hour has come, and when you see heaven opened.