

affected by the troubled waves of this troublesome world.

Peace is not always freedom from inward anxiety. The Christian is not taught that his life is to be without struggle, sorrow, and pain. Rather is his life a conflict, and it is through much tribulation that he enters the kingdom of heaven. The peace promised is Christ's own peace, "My peace," and His life was not free from sorrow and pain.

It is not the false "peace" of self-righteousness. The Pharisee in the temple courts was satisfied with himself. But his peace was the peace of death.

Nor is it the peace of thoughtless apathy or callous indifference. An ice-bound river is at peace. No breath of earth ruffles its surface. But the sleep of winter is the nearest approach to the sleep of death.

It is not the "peace" of a conscience unenlightened and uninformed. There are many whose spiritual hopes are like a dream which has no foundation in reality. They appear contented in heart and mind, but it is the contentment which lasts only as long as they are able to lull conscience to sleep, or to shut their ears to its voice. They are not, perhaps, altogether unhappy, for conscience has lost its power to alarm them, but of true peace they know nothing. "There is no peace, saith my God, to the wicked."