

have said that darkest day that ever came to him was the day when Samuel came and called him from following sheep to be God's anointed king. But he held on to God, and God held on to him; and God justified all that He had said, and God fulfilled all that he had promised. Now, will you take Christ to night, my brother, and remember that all I have said is no exaggeration; if you take Him, and He takes you, "All things are yours, for ye are Christ's and Christ is God's" "He that overcometh shall inherit all things, and I will be his God, and he shall be My son. To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with Me on My throne, even as I overcame, and am set down with My Father on His throne."

Take Christ to-night, now, when the offer is made in the Lord's great name; and although we may never meet again, I will forecast your future before I sit down. You may never make a fortune in London nor anywhere else: you may be called upon to lose a fortune because of being faithful to Jesus Christ; you may live a long, toilsome, troubled, persecuted, seemingly undesirable life; but fifty years after this—that is a big jump—if you are then dying, and know it, dying intelligently; if you are dying in the faith and fear of Jesus Christ, this night, this building, this unfamiliar preacher, with his rude, his seemingly rude, and rough and boisterous ways, will come back upon you, and your dying eye will brighten, and I can hear your dying tongue saying, "Aye, it is a long, long time since that night, but I accepted the preacher's call, I closed with Christ, and although I have not been what I might have been, I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept"—what a shout!—"I have KEPT THE FAITH!" See that, oh world, oh devil, oh Babylon of London, "I have kept the faith." It reminds me of some lines from Sir Walter Scott when he is describing the dying of Marmion: you remember how a certain name told on him,

"The war that for a space did fail,
Now trebly thundering swelled the gale,
And 'Stanley' was the cry.
A light on Marmion's visage spread,
And fired his glazing eye;
With dying hand above his head,
He shook the fragment of his blade
And shouted victory!"

So with every believer. We shall live victoriously; we shall die "more than conquerors through Him that loved us." Rise to the occasion, my brother, my sister; do not be battered and flattened down to the level of the world, and bend your head and bend your heart; let the Word of God come

into you, and the Spirit of God take hold of you for Christ, for ever and ever.

May we be bound up in the bundle of life with David's Greater Son. Here is our security: "Once I have sworn by My holiness that I will not lie unto David. His seed shall endure for ever; and his throne as the sun before Me" Amen and Amen.

WHY NOT TO-DAY?

How many souls are lost by delay! Duty is simply neglected. Obedience to the Divine call is postponed. The spirit is not welcomed to-day, but put aside for to-morrow.

Reader, you hope very likely to be a real Christian some time, and fit to go to heaven. You hope to repent and believe on Christ, and have a good hope before you die. But why not to-day?

What is to prevent you? Why should you wait any longer? Why not this day awake and call upon your God, and resolve that you will sleep no longer? I set before you Jesus Christ, the Saviour, who died to make atonement for sinners; Jesus who is able to save to the uttermost, Jesus willing to receive. The hand that was nailed to the cross is held out to you in mercy. The eye that wept over Jerusalem is looking on you with pity. The voice that has said to many a wanderer, "Thy sins are forgiven." is saying to you, "Come unto Me."

Go to Jesus first and foremost, if you would know what step to take. Think not to wait for repentance and faith and a new heart, but go to him just as you are. Oh! awake thou that sleepest, and Christ shall give thee light. Why not to-day?

Sabbaths and ordinances are continually witnessing against you; they are ever proclaiming that there is a God and a judgment and you are living as if there were none. The tears and prayers of godly relations are witnessing against you; others are sorrowfully thinking you have a soul, though you seem to forget it. The very gravestones that you see are silently witnessing, "Life is uncertain, time is short, the resurrection is yet to come, the Lord is at hand!" All, all are saying, "Awake! awake! awake!"

O reader! the time past may surely suffice you to have slept. Awake to be wise. Awake to be safe. Awake to be happy. And why not to-day?"

Nearness of life to the Saviour will necessarily involve greatness of love to him. As nearness to the sun increases the temperature of the various planets, so near and intimate communion with Jesus rises the heat of the soul's affection toward him.—*Spurgeon*.