

reality of life. They paint the future in the gayest, gaudiest colours, and gaze on the picture, and thus allow their minds to be diverted from the duties of the present. Ah, beware!

How shall we get our minds impressed with the importance and reality of life? All salutary, abiding impressions on the human soul must be preceded by thought—consideration. Our emotional nature becomes tinged with the hue of the thoughts that are allowed to dwell in the region of the intellect. To be impressed with the importance and reality of life, consider,

1st, That this is the only life we have to live here on earth. If we misspend this one, another lifetime there is not in reserve in which the error may be rectified. Whatever, as probationers for eternity, we need to do here, should be done at once. Whatever our hands find to do, we should do it with all our might. This is the time for work—for action. If a man lose money, he may make up his loss again, and learn the lesson of greater carefulness and economy for the future; if he lose reputation, he may regain it; if he lose health, he may recover it; but if he lose time, it is gone forever. While all this is true, is it not strange that we hear men complaining and lamenting when they lose pelf, or character, or health, but seldom uttering a word of regret when they have 'lost their precious time? Reader, reflect on this, and you will be influenced to *live while you live*.

2. A consideration of the ends of life is fitted to impress us with its importance and reality. The great end of life is the glory of God. But we wish to call attention to some of the subordinate ends of life. (1) As we are fallen creatures, we are allowed to live that we may have abundant opportunity of fleeing from the wrath to come. Our characters, in the eyes of the world, may be blameless; but we are sinful in God's sight; we have lived to ourselves. In infinite kindness and mercy God has provided a way of salvation for us, in the atoning work of his well-beloved Son. It is our duty, our immediate duty, to turn to God by faith in that work. The present time is given us for that purpose; and given to us because of the efficacy of that work, which brings salvation near us when we consider that this is one of the ends for which God allows us to live on earth, how important does the period of life appear, and what folly to spend it so as to secure our damnation, rather than our salvation! (2.) Having secured our salvation by yielding to the Spirit of God and embracing the gospel of Jesus, being led by