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THE NECESSITY OF SALVATION.

CHAPTER I.

Advice by way of Introduction.

This little work is addressed to you as a traveller to the eternal world: its object is your eternal welfare, and to promote that welfare, the writer requests a few moments of your spare time, and also craves your attention to a subject which is of deep concern to you when time will be no more. This is worthy of your attention; in having its blessings the poorest are rich, but destitute of this the richest are poor—without these blessings riches are the greatest of poverty; all of earth and earthly things are nothing to be compared to the great and profitable design of saving the soul—that grace which is one of the leading principles to bring us to that source where all true happiness lies. If this opportunity be neglected, soon you will lose all for which you slight the welfare of a deathless soul. The world passeth away, and the desires of it, the cares, and pleasures, and everything in life, like the waves of the sea, or a rapid stream, are flying by. Where are all our fathers and forefathers now? we cannot tell; all we can say is that they are gone, and you and I will follow them to a world of happiness or a world of sadness. We may inhabit some earthly dwelling—you may spend some of your precious moments in vice and folly, and then your body must return to the earth again as it was, and the spirit shall return to God that gave it—while over your grave the storms of ages shall roll until the last day dawns.

Secondly: Consider too that in that eternal world which lies before you, and cannot be far off, there are two obstacles. Before us is the Lord—when urging every sacrifice to secure salvation, he declares in a few verses, three times over—that you must enter into life or into hell, where the worm dieth not, and the fire is never quenched: Mark 9. Oh let us think what a contrast before us is eternity—all life or all death, all holiness or all guilt: there are but two ways—all triumph or all despair, all heaven or all hell; the gain of heaven is immensely great and good; if your un-