

FRIENDSHIP AND THE LAST THINGS

Neglecting and despising that has cut us off from all that makes eternal life real and glorious, and has left the Judge no choice but to send us away into eternal death. O that men were wise to see the eternal issues of earth's simple, momentary choices, to realize that they are writing their own judgment every day they live by their attitude to Christ the Judge. If you rejoice in His friendship here and count it your greatest joy, then judgment to you will be glad tidings of great joy, for it gives you in infinite measure the thing your soul desires above all else. But if you hate Him or despise Him here and find your satisfaction in the things of earth, then judgment will be the dreadful voice of doom to you, for heaven has nothing else to give, save His friendship and His love, and that will be to you the greatest torment.

So, for our spirits the last things are no longer unknown. In Christ we meet and know one who was dead and is alive again. The life which we live in Him day by day knows itself even deepened and enriched by the very things that our natural man fears and suffers from, the most. Pain borne for Him and in Him becomes gain, grief