

The consideration of this future state is most important, as it is most rational. Carelessness with regard to it betokens a most lamentable lack of wisdom. The future is a subject in which every human being is interested. When the young man, who has been surrounded by pure home influences, is about to leave the parental roof and enter into a new and untried state of existence in the crowded city, where he will move amid new scenes, be subjected to new and peculiar temptations, his parents feel it necessary to give him proper counsel and due warning, and allow him to depart with fear and trembling, lest he be not prepared for the new course he is about to run. They may have a view of the dangers to which he will be exposed, of which he himself has a very inadequate conception. God knows the future, and the punishments that are in reserve for the incorrigibly impenitent; and therefore he entreats careless sinners to consider their latter end. When the bride is about to leave the paternal home for another and still dearer home her bosom is the seat of strange emotions. Calm reflection, as to the duties required of her in her new life, is, in her case, most appropriate. We should blame her much if she took this step heedlessly. Much more must the folly of carelessness as to the future state be blameworthy. There is a man in old Scotland struggling for existence. His family is growing up. He sees little before them, but unremitting toil and poverty. The thought enters his mind that he will emigrate. Many anxious days and nights he spends before his mind is fully made up. And much reasoning and pleading must he use before his family fall in with his plans. When all are decided as to the propriety of emigration, what anxieties do they cherish as to the new country which they intend making their home, and as to the kind of life they will lead there. We could not conceive of them taking this important step without consideration, much consideration. But what shall we say of those who are living in disregard of God who will judge them, and of the future state on which they must enter when they pass away from this earthly scene! Their folly is fearful. It is madness. Reader, consider your latter end. That God beseeches you to do so is evidence of his regard for your weal. Awake out of your dreadful spiritual slumber.

II. We should consider that our entering into a new state of existence after our earthly race is run is *certain*, and the exact period when we shall do so, *uncertain*. There is nothing surer than death. The stream of time empties into the unfathomable and boundless ocean of eternity.