

distress: they may be free from much of what the world deems evil: but they are evil, because they are spent in enmity to God; they are evil, because they are spent under the curse of the Lord; they are evil, because, unless their course is changed, their sure progress is to the endless evils of a world of woe. Oh! that men would so consider this, that they would flee in time, for refuge from the wrath to come!

Yet even the favored Israel could feel that, in this respect, his days were evil. And what child of the true Israel can there be, that can look back even upon a closing year, even upon a closing day, and not feel that, by reason of the defilement of sin, it has been full of evil? How many mercies have appealed to him too, and left his heart still cold and ungrateful; how many messages of grace have sounded upon his ear, and yet left him worldly, inconsistent, and unfit for heaven; how many evil tempers remain yet unsubdued; how many sinful imaginations have mingled with his sacrifices to God; how many unworthy motives have prompted him even in his charities; how much of self-seeking has there been in his conduct, even when he was professing to follow Christ! What cold and formal things have his prayers too often been; what a heartless and unmeaning offering too frequently the ascription of his praise; how