

he is now on the verge of the world of spirits—God-condemned, man-condemned and self-condemned. A “thief,” a justly condemned thief; better than this could not be said of him now—nay, better than this he ventured not to think or say of himself. Hearken to his words, “we indeed justly for we receive the due rewards of our deeds.” Oh my brethren! what a position to occupy on the brink of eternity! When he looked to the past he saw nothing but his own evil deeds, setting themselves in fearful array against him; and when he peers into the future into which he is soon to be launched, he sees nothing for him but the blackness of darkness forever and ever. If he receives such just punishment in this life at the hands of men, what can he expect in yonder world when the Judge of all the earth shall deal justly? How fearful a thing must it be to fall into the hands of the living God! But though this picture is so dark, so very dark; yet, blessed be God, it has a bright side; for he who was nailed to yonder cross, a child of Satan, and an heir of eternal destruction, before his dead body was taken down to the earth, his soul was with Christ in paradise. O wonderful divine grace! a condemned sinner on the brink of eternity, in one day—yes, during the space of a few hours, justified, sanctified, and glorified. In one day in three kingdoms; we find him in the kingdom of nature, we see him a forgiven sinner in the kingdom of grace, and we leave him with Christ in the kingdom of glory. Ere the sun of that day did set behind yon western hills—he, that malefactor, saved by grace, was with Jesus where the sun of eternity never sets. It is not revealed to us what means the Spirit of God used for bringing about this man’s conversion, although there are several things to be noticed in this chapter that might be used as a means; for instance, the Spirit might use as an instrument for this end Christ’s demeanour: He was mocked, He was smitten, He was spat upon, He was scourged and hardly dealt with in every conceivable way, yet He maintains