

life even though the way be rough and the difficulties great, look up steadfastly into heaven, walk by faith, and you will joyfully make the journey.

(3.) *Once more we learn that our looking up is not in vain for there is one at the right hand of God both able and ready to help us.* When Stephen looked up it was no empty gaze into nothing, as he looked up steadfastly into heaven. It was no mere mysticism or irrational faith. He saw realities—heaven opened the glory of God, and specially the son of man standing at the right hand of God. And the attitude in which Stephen saw Jesus is full of meaning. He is seen to be standing not sitting, as in many other cases we find Him spoken of in the Scriptures. Does this attitude suggest anything? Without forcing the narration in the least, surely the attitude of standing means that the glorified Jesus had knowledge of what Stephen was called to suffer, and was full of interest and compassion towards him; and, further, that he was in the attitude of one ready to sustain and help his faithful servant on the earth. That the spirit of Stephen was sustained by this assurance in this dark and trying hour there can be no doubt. He saw Jesus standing on the right hand of God, and his faith fixed itself on the risen personal Saviour who was, as he still is, within the veil, to appear before God and to make continual intercession for us.

Here in the most striking concrete form the great doctrine of Christ's intercessory work, as our advocate with the Father, is presented. Having made atonement on the cross for our sins, he ascended up on high, with the merit of his blood and obedience, to plead before his Father's throne. It is His still to carry on this mediatorial work of intercession in administering the affairs of his kingdom. Looking by faith to him we have access by him into God's presence and receive at His hand the blessings he died on earth to procure for us.

You know how sailors do when on voyage across the ocean. When they wish to find their reckoning, and discover just where they are on the sea we do not find the captain or the crew peering earnestly over the side of the vessel seeking to read latitude and longitude from the dark and angry waves as they roll by. No; they set their instruments facing towards the sky, and wait by day for the sun to break through the clouds, or by night for the moon to send her pale rays through a rift in the leaden sky. Thus from the heavens above not from the water below he gets his data to make his calculations. He brings out his nautical tables, makes his reckoning and in a short time