

dies of humanity—a venerable superstition. Before we accept their principles, it is perfectly right that we inquire whether they will support us amid the agonies of dissolution; and how can we get our inquiries better answered than by referring to their own experience at this trying time? Christians have died triumphantly in the faith of the glorious truths the Bible taught them. The truths of the Bible have supported many in life, and imparted comfort to them in the hour of death. The Bible itself assures us of the happy state of those who die in the faith. “Mark the perfect man and behold the upright, for the end of that man is peace.” “The wicked shall be driven away in his wickedness, but the righteous hath hope in his death.” “Say ye to the righteous, it shall be well with him.” But is there anything about the deathbeds of wicked men or infidels to lead us to desire to die their death, or to cherish the hope that it is well with them. Alas! no. A man who had been industriously propagating infidelity for many years, had an only daughter lying on a sick bed. His wife who had gone to her rest was, in her lifetime, a devoted, spiritually-minded and praying Christian. When the daughter’s death was drawing near, and all hope of her recovery had ceased, she called her father to her bedside, and said—“My mother died a Christian some years ago, rejoicing in Jesus, and assured of heaven: you, my dear father, are a disbeliever in Christianity. I am going to make my last venture: am I to die in my mother’s faith or in yours? I beseech you advise me,” said she, with the greatest earnestness, “whether I shall die in my mother’s faith or in yours.” The father’s struggle between affection for his child and the pride of devotion to his principles, was tremendous; but at last, amid a burst of tears, and in an agony of feeling, the hardened yet melting infidel said, “Die in your mother’s faith.” She did so. The description given of the dying moments of some infidels fill the mind with horror. And if infidelity cannot support the soul amid the agonies of death, nothing short of true Christianity can do so. Many persons, however, may congratulate themselves on not being infidels who are just as unprepared to die as any infidel, and have as little to comfort them. We must be righteous so that we may die blessed.

But why is it desirable to die the death of the righteous?

1. The righteous leave the world regretted. Christians are the salt of the earth, lights of the world. They shed around them the halo of a pure and blessed influence. When they are called