

on the clothes, and an open Bible in a chair beside her. She was dead! God had taken her to himself even while she was praying; her soul and her prayer went together to her home in heaven; her hope was changed to glad fruition, her faith to sight, her prayer to praise!

That death was beautiful!

“How blest the righteous when he dies;  
When sinks a weary soul to rest,  
How mildly beam the closing eyes,  
How gently heaves the expiring breast!  
So fades a summer cloud away,  
So sinks the gale when storms are o'er,  
So gently shuts the eye of day,  
So dies a wave along the shore.”

Reader, which shall be yours—the death of the Christian or of the impenitent? It may come suddenly or may not; God tells us neither the day nor the hour; he only says, “Be ye also ready!

“There are no acts of pardon passed  
In the cold grave to which we haste.”

The present is all we can call our own. God invites us by his providence and in his word to seek for peace with him *now*. “Now” is the only time God gives us.—That word rings out clear in all his commands to us; on it hangs our hope of salvation: “*Now* is the accepted time; behold *now* is the day of salvation.” “Whatever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might; for there is no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom in the grave whither thou goest.”

Let each one pray, “Let me die the death of the righteous, and let my last end be like his.” Let each one make sure that he will be ready if the Master should say: “This night thy soul shall be required of thee!”—*Tract Journal*.

### THE GREAT NEGLECT.

How shall we escape if we neglect so great salvation?—*HEB. ii. 3.*

WHAT is neglect? Inattention, carelessness, the omission or postponement of something which ought at once to be attended to and done.

What great matter is awfully neglected? Salvation—the great salvation. Not education, business nor pleasure—not the farm, the family, nor the body, but the soul, the soul's everlasting salvation; those

are generally and often unduly minded? this is extensively and awfully slighted.

Who are the neglecters of the great salvation? Those who neglect prayer, the holy Scriptures, and the house of God, and who postpone the seeking of salvation to a future period. This large class includes persons of all ages, circumstances, and conditions of life, children, young people, aged men and women, the rich, the poor, learned and unlearned, religious professor, and outwardly profane; although differing in other respects, they are fearfully agreed in this—the neglect of the great salvation.

How is this neglect to be accounted for? The world is enticing, business pressing, pleasure alluring, and example misleading. Besides, human nature itself is fallen, depraved; unfeeling, unbelieving, prone to evil, and deadly set against that which is good; and “the God of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not.” Thus the neglect of salvation is to be accounted for, though neither justified nor excused, but deeply deplored.

What will be the consequences of this neglect? Neglect ruins. By it a business fails, a ship will sink, and a farm will only yield thorns and weeds. An infant by neglect will die, and salvation neglected, the soul will perish for ever. There is a deep yawning pit of outer darkness, fire, brimstone, and everlasting torment, and no way of escape is open to the neglecters of salvation.

What then should the neglecters do?—They should listen now to the sound of alarm, admonition, and invitation, be awake repent, cry mightily to God for mercy, “behold the Lamb of God,” “flee from the wrath to come,” and “lay hold on eternal life.”

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Well might Coleridge say that the fairest flower he ever saw climbing round a poor man's window, was not so beautiful in his eye as the Bible which he saw lying within