

prompt and careful thinking, he surely lacks wisdom who heedlessly neglects those precautions which may insure safety, and thinks nothing of it. Men think energetically, and even agonizingly, if by thinking they can devise any means to save a few pounds which are in peril. They will think earnestly and soberly when reputation or character is questioned. They will often think passionately and feelingly when their good name is traduced. And when placed in circumstances of sudden danger, burning thoughts will come rushing through the soul, stirring it to its deep foundations. And why should not one who is conscious of possessing no well grounded hope in Christ, and who believes in the necessity of such a hope, think of the claims of God on the affections of his heart solemnly and earnestly? To think is the indispensable first step. If the attention can be arrested, and the mind led to reflect on its actual condition and its need, there is hope. The mass of men will not think of religion as a personal matter, and so never become interested in it. Oh, if the sluggish dream of thoughtlessness can be broken, and the soul allowed to grasp those themes which fix the mind's eye upon itself, it could not remain insensible.

But what if you *only think* of it. What if the Lord Jesus, when the work of a world's salvation was to be achieved, had *only thought* of it—where had the ruined race of man now been? Were one in a dwelling on fire, and urged to escape for his life, would he *only think* of it? Were one drowning, and besought to lay hold of a friendly rope extended toward him, would he *only think* of it? In such circumstances one would think earnestly, and act with all his soul. And shall an immortal being, when the character of the eternity before him, for joy or woe, may rest on the decision of one hour, set aside the fervent appeal of a parent, a friend, a pastor, with the cool response, "I'll think of it?" To the dying Saviour's manifestation of love, to the gentle monition of the blessed Spirit, who beseeches the sinner to become reconciled to God, shall only the chilling answer be returned, "I'll think of it?" Myriads have done *no more* than think of it. There is reason to believe

that the whole world of despair numbers many wretched tenants, who during their life on earth would only think of it, and who now mourn at the last that they *but thought* of it. To one such who pleaded for a respite, it was answered, "Son, remember!" Reader, will you be one with them for ever?

MISSING AT THE PRAYER MEETING.

"NOT FORSAKING THE ASSEMBLING OF OURSELVES TOGETHER, AS THE MANNER OF SOME IS; BUT EXHORTING ONE ANOTHER; AND SO MUCH THE MORE AS YE SEE THE DAY APPROACHING." (Heb. x. 25).

Who missed me at the Prayer Meeting? My Saviour, My Pastor, my friends in Christ, my fellow labourers in the great work of evangelizing the world and of sanctifying the church.

What did they miss? They missed my person in its right place—my voice in the sacred song—and my sympathy in the heart's aspirations. Thus others were wounded by my absence.

What did I miss? I missed the benediction of God—the approval of conscience—the greeting of the Saviour's friends—and the glow of holy peace which is promoted in these gatherings.

Why was I missing? I forgot the time; or I was busy in trifles, or I thought I was rather poorly, or I was allured by worldly friends, or I supposed my attendance on preaching services was enough; or, to own the real truth, my soul was in a bad state: I had grieved away the Holy Ghost,—indifference pervaded my heart, and I was disinclined to the earnest spirit which breathes at a prayer meeting. Secret prayer too, was fearfully cold.

But, for the sake of Christ, whose glorious name is honoured at the Prayer Meeting; for the sake of my friends, who may be eternally affected by my example; for the sake of the church, whose prosperity depends on prayer; for the sake of my own soul, which must enter heaven by prayer, I will in future let nothing but God's obvious providence cause me to be

MISSING AT THE PRAYER MEETING.