

*the shout* that was to call him home to his mid-day meal and a short rest for himself and his horses. And we both agreed that we Christians should now be just in the same state of expectancy with regard to our blessed Lord's soon descending from heaven *with a shout*, that will call us home, not to a short rest and then turn out again; but to "*go no more out*," but to enjoy "the rest that remaineth for the people of God" for ever. For if Paul in his day could speak of "*knowing the time*," and say then, "the night was far spent and the day was at hand," referring to the return of the Lord Jesus: how very, very much more spent must it be, now that eighteen hundred years and more have rolled away? Yes, dear fellow-believer, dear brother or sister in Christ, *the night is very far spent*. Our Lord is soon, (perhaps before I finish writing, or you finish reading this) coming to take his blood-bought Church, *His own* that are in the world, HOME.

*Home* to the Father's house in glory, who loves us as He loves Christ. *Home* to the joy and rest of being for ever with and like the Blessed Lord Himself, when we shall see His blessed face who has so loved us, so cared for us, so faithfully kept and sustained and borne with us here. When He will have *His exceeding joy* in having us round Himself and with Himself up there. And we shall have fulness of joy, in being there with Him for ever, and with one another, unhindered by anything within ourselves or around us. No wonder that it is called "*that Blessed hope*," in Titus ii. 13.