

received. Nothing, in their estimation, is worth living for, but to glorify God and win heavenly crowns. Would that the high and holy anticipations, created by such incipient effects of the power of godliness, were always realized by the issue! But, that the instances in which that is the case are comparatively few, is a fact not less manifest than it is mournful. Of those who become heirs of salvation, through faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, the proportion is lamentably small who avail themselves of the immense resources placed at their disposal by the gracious economy under which we live, to perfect holiness in the fear of God. Instead of rising to inhale the invigorating atmosphere and enjoy the heavenly prospects, that animate disciples who travel on the high-way of holiness, most of those who put on the Lord Jesus, take the middle walk of Christianity,—perhaps a lower position. They linger out an almost joyless and unprofitable existence in the vestibule of the Christian temple, though invited and urged by a thousand voices to enter into the Holiest, where the true Shekinah—the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ—unveils its transforming lustres to the pure in heart.

The Apostles had occasion to bewail many such cases among Hebrew, as well as Heathen converts to the faith of Christ. To that class obviously belonged the persons to whom St. Paul addressed the scorching expostulations with which the preceding chapter closes, and the animated exhortations and awful warnings contained in this. Counsels so salutary, my brethren, can never be unseasonable; nor can the motives by which they are enforced ever lose their power. If it was the duty of the first Christians, it can be no less obligatory upon us, to leave the principles of the doctrine of Christ, and go on to perfection. If by neglecting a course so imperative, *they* were in danger of falling away so utterly as to become judicially abandoned to the hopelessness of irreclaimable impenitence and the desolation of an undone eternity; *we*, though placed in different circumstances, are by no means unconditionally exempted from liability to woe equally overwhelming. Our safety depends upon our fidelity to the grace of God: our reception of the