

load. The nearer he approaches to the presence of God, the more he dreads him, and the more anxiously he labours to avoid him. What wretchedness can be greater! What suffering more insupportable! It is all because he is without Christ. An accepted, trusted Saviour would have removed all this load, and filled him with perfect and eternal peace. But he has lived, and he dies, without him: and his soul is far off from peace.

But he has another anticipation still. He must stand before the judgment-seat of Christ. Dragged from every pleasurable scene and possession, he has nothing there but despair and anguish. He may call in vain upon rocks and mountains, to hide him from the face of God and the wrath of the Lamb. Conscious of his inability to stand in that fearful day, he would gladly shrink into annihilation, in the prospect of its solemn retributions upon his guilty soul. But God cannot be mocked. They who have sowed to the flesh, shall of the flesh reap corruption. The sinner can look upon that crucified one, whom he heedlessly despised and trampled upon, only with the most overwhelming fear and alarm. He would gladly avoid him, and fly from him if he could. He would delight to overturn his power, to destroy his right to judge, and to break up the authority before which he trembles in dismay. He sinks in the prospect of meeting him, in unutterable despair.— He has no claim which will stand the test of God's examination; no garment of righteousness, in which he may wrap himself; no argument to plead against the sentence of condemnation from his Judge. His own conscience confesses the justice of the divine determination. His mouth is speechless from all excuse. And God is proclaimed righteous in his judgment upon the ungodly.— He is a judgment-seat, with Christ upon the throne; but without Christ in the sinner's soul. Oh, could he there have this righteous advocate with God, all would be well. His crimson sins would be forgiven, and his guilty soul rejoice in the peace of God. But he is without Christ; this he has chosen as his portion, and he now reaps the harvest he has sown. He is condemned for ever.— There is now a final separation, and another solemn anticipation. He is to be without Christ for ever. Banished from God, and from the fellowship of the redeemed, he is driven into endless woe. The result of his choice is now unchangeable. Eternity will but continue unceasingly to reveal the consequences of his folly.— Assigned to an eternal rebellion, there is an endless punishment for an endless iniquity. He will never be brought to repentance. Though suffering for ever for sin, he will have no true sorrow for