

of justice with calm and peaceful minds!

In the next five points of doom are specified. The ungodly are to have their faces filled with shame; they are to be confounded; they are to be troubled; they are to be put to shame; they are to perish. What is meant by these particulars?

(1) *To Fill their faces with shame* is to write their wickedness on their persons, that all can see what their character is. Here on earth men are hypocrites and hide their true character. Under the aspect of gentleness they conceal a heart at war with God. But some even here break through the disguise, and their depravity shows itself already to all. That which is done partially here will be done thoroughly hereafter. The secrets of all hearts shall be made manifest. The enemy of God shall have his name emblazoned on his forehead, and all shall see the fitness of his doom.

(2) *To be confounded* is to be filled with dismay and terror—to lose all their self confidence—to realize their true situation, which they had hitherto succeeded in concealing from themselves; when engaged so absorbingly in their own schemes against God, they hide God's justice and its mean progress from their own eyes; when their own schemes ultimately fail and they can no longer hide their attention in *them*, their helpless and hopeless condition as aliens from God in affection and character in a confirmed growth of sinfulness, ever augmenting itself, will strike them with appalling fear—not a fear that leads to repentance, softening the heart and numb-

ling it before God—they have gone too far for that. Moral character hardens into adamant with its practices whether good or evil; when a man has persisted in revolt against God he at length becomes unchangeable in his opposition to holiness so that the terror that then may come upon him at sight of his peril is one that would lead him to crawl to the rocks and the mountains but not to God.

(3) *To be troubled* is to feel the workings of sin in all their fulness unrestrained by the divine grace which in this world is generally more or less active in the hearts and lives of the wicked. Sin is trouble. It is the action of every faculty of the soul, contrary to the design of the Creator, producing a spiritual friction and pain in each. Now when this becomes thoroughly developed the soul experiences unnumberable agony. Even in this world there have been innumerable instances where hell has begun on earth, and the fierce torture of the spirit have turned the man to a demon, or driven him to suicide, as he could kill the soul when he should kill the body.

(4) *To be put to shame* is to feel no longer the lofty defiance which for a time made headway against rebuke, entreaty and correction, but to feel the contempt of one's own soul so as to endeavour (all in vain) to hide from one's self. A Christian when abhorring himself, can fly from God, but the wicked soul abhorring itself has no whither to fly. It is doomed to stay in its own dreary company and bear the distressing weight of his own shame. An eternal conviction with no conversion