

leave this house; for when you go from this, that grave may be ready for you where there is "neither work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom to be found."

In the *second* place, the season when the Lord is to be found is not likely to be a *death-bed season*. Yet this is the very season when many people intend to seek the Lord; and most strange it is! I do not wonder so much at young people, at those who know nothing of death, who never witnessed a death-scene, coming to such a resolution as this; but I am confounded and astonished that any man who ever looked upon a dying bed, could be fool enough to come to such a resolution. They *intend*, forsooth, to read the Bible with a dying eye, to pray with a dying voice, to listen with a dying ear, and on a dying bed, to the words of that man whom for years they rejected in the house of God. Why, of all the delusions that ever entered the heart of man, this is the greatest; and ready as men are to be deceived, I wonder that even Satan can persuade any man, who possesses one glimmering of common sense, to adopt such a resolution. What is there about this plan that makes people resort to it? Is it a plan honouring to God! We cannot conceive any plan more *dishonouring* to God. It in fact just says this: I will turn to God when I can do no better. I will let in Christ when I think he has given the last knock, and not till then. I will give my strength, my spring, my summer, my vigour, my all to Satan; and to the God that loved me, and to the Saviour that died for me, I will offer the dregs of my existence, the few worthless, wretched hours that terminate man's life! Why, brethren, can you say that this is not most dishonouring to God, and most dishonouring to Jesus Christ? "If ye offer the blind for sacrifice, is it not evil? and if ye offer the lame or sick, is it not evil? Offer it now unto thy governor? Will he be pleased with thee, or accept thy person?" saith the Lord of hosts. "A son honour-eth his father, and a servant his master.—If, then, I be a father, says God, where is mine honour? and if I be a master, where is my fear?"

We have another question to put with regard to this plan: Is it a *suitable* period to seek the Lord, even if it were not dis-

honouring to him? We don't say it would be so very unsuitable a period, if he whom they call the "king of terrors," like other kings, always sent out intimation of his approach, that there might be preparations made to receive him. But that which, among other things, makes death the "king of terrors," is, that he is *not* like other kings; he often sends no notice of his coming. Does death always send a warning? What says Christ? "Behold I come as a thief in the night!" And how does a thief in the night come? Does he send intimation of his coming? No. He breaks stealthily into the house; he steals softly into the chamber of the sleeper, he stands by the bed-side, and before the man can arrest his arm, he plunges the knife into his heart? And can any man in this world of graves, say it will not be so with him? We defy him to take up the public prints, and not read of some sudden death, or something that rings a warning in his ears. Did you ever see Death? We are really tempted to ask the question of any one who thinks a death-bed a suitable season for turning to the Lord. Did you ever see Death? I have seen the king of terrors on many occasions, and in many characters, and many shapes; and I am sure I speak God's truth when I say there never was a man,—he may have resolved in the church, in the haunts of pleasure, when a flash of conscience came across him,—he may have resolved at such times that he would turn to the Lord on his deathbed; but no man in his sober senses ever stood by a dying bed and made that resolution *then*. Did any man ever say *then*, I will seek God when my mind is wandering as wildly, when my body is tossing as restlessly, when I cannot read a line of the Bible, when compelled, on the minister asking me, Can you follow a prayer? to say, I cannot do it? We say there never was a man, in his sound and sober senses, who formed such a resolution in such a place; and if so, surely a *death-bed season* is not a suitable period to seek the Lord.

We have another question to ask, and that exhausts this part of the subject, Is it a *successful* period? What does the Bible and what does experience say? Is a deathbed time a time when you are likely to succeed? We read in the Bible of many