

This is a solemn thought. All other considerations are of little moment in comparison of this. All minor judgments are but the small dust in the balance, when compared with that final sentence which is to effect an everlasting separation between the soul and its God! Let us bring this thought, my Brethren, home to our hearts. Let us be assured that, the goodness which now resembles the morning cloud and the early dew, is not the goodness that is to flourish in Heaven. A few more nights of sorrow may renew it here, and a few more morning suns may chase it from us again, but when the sun is darkened, and the moon is blood, and the stars have fallen from their lofty spheres, when the heavens are rolled together, and the earth consumed, and we removed to a scene, where all is lasting, changeless, and eternal, this goodness will not place us among the sons of God, or fit us to celebrate His praises in the Sanctuary above.

The counsel, then, which solemnly and emphatically claims your attention, is this—*Be sure you do not mistake the nature of true religion.* Remember it is not forms, or doctrines, or transient feelings, but the holy affection of love to God and the children of God, deeply and permanently seated in the heart, having the Divine Spirit for its author, holiness and all good works for its effects, and Heaven for the scene of its full and final expansion.

Such is true religion: bear it ever in mind; and, as the last truth which the text enforces upon you, *never imagine that you can be saved without it.* As coming from God, adoring God, and resembling God, this religion is adapted to the world where God reigns; and no other religion, and nothing short of this can be adapted to that world. Then seek for this inestimable treasure now while time is afforded you to obtain it. Halt no longer between two opinions. Cease from the vain attempt to unite the services of God and mammon. Aim at something more than the mere feelings of a moment: aim at the possession of a new heart, and a right spirit, a heart which can find its delight in God on earth, and, in God, its recompense in Heaven.—AMEN!