

should happen to discover that it will soon die out and leave them in the cold. There is a more pleasing and healthful warmth to be gotten from activity. A man's life, it must not be forgotten, cannot always centre in a cedar fire, and the roast that may be prepared upon it. True nourishment and satisfaction can only be found in the worship and service of the living God—in the fellowship and joy to be experienced in union with Christ.

4. And now last of all old age creeps on leaving behind not only the worldly pleasures but also the accustomed duties of life. If all previous years have been spent in sweetening enjoyments, what a poor residue must now be left to sweeten and strengthen hope for the future. How can this residue now shape itself for the quiet restfulness and calmness that belong to ripened years? We would not desire to see old age morose and fretful, but cheerful and blithe, ripening in all the virtues of full orbed manhood. How sad to see those burdened years still seeking peace in business or pleasure—to see the old man sitting by the cedar fire, seasoning into the dry tissue of matured worldliness, having scarcely a residue of thought or of faith by which to fashion an image of his God? But as the chill of helplessness steals over his soul, and the glow has left the embers, he is forced, from a residue both scanty and lean, to shape some new object of desire—to seek some abiding source of shelter and support. He has sought life where it is not to be found, for it consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth, but in righteousness, and peace and joy in the Holy Ghost. The riches of true life call for the consecration and exercise of all that freshness and simple trusting of childhood, of all the earnestness of enlarging manhood and of all the restful and quiet spirit of sobriety and peace, which belong to old age.

How many give their best strength of body and mind in amassing fortunes, while a few hasty moments of the morning, or a few weary moments of the evening, are set apart for religious devotion. How many make the Sabbath the last instead of the first day of the week, by bringing to it such exhausted strength that it becomes merely a season for repairing waste tissue, instead of a day of refreshment and growth. In giving God praise how prone we are to greet our own ears with music; and in prayer, where we may hold sweet converse with God, how often we find our thoughts eddying about ourselves, while only the residue of desire reaches to the throne of heaven.