

Sorrow and death are here on account of sin. The Lord God spoke of sorrow, toil and death as the result of man's disobedience. Gen. iii. So man's life commonly begins with the cry of sorrow, continues in toil, and ends in death. Men propose many things to mitigate this, and they would if possible, remove it, but this they cannot do. As sorrow and death came by sin, they cannot be removed without sin being taken away.

The Lamb of God has come to take away the sin of the world, to put it away by the sacrifice of Himself. The full results of that offering are not yet made manifest, but He has been raised from the dead, and He now lives to God in His presence. There He lives for us as our representative. Because He lives we shall live also. Into that circle where He is, sorrow and death can never enter. It is a scene of cloudless favor, peace and endless delight.—The Holy Spirit, the Comforter, who has come to us, brings us to present enjoyment of that wondrous place.—We are still subject to sorrow here, but by the Spirit's ministry we find our joy where Christ is, and this is to us unfailing comfort.

Great pressure had rested upon Paul in his devoted service to Christ in Asia. He had even despaired of life. But he said, "We had the sentence of death in ourselves, that we should not trust in ourselves, but in God which raiseth the dead." Instead of human resources being counted upon, there was the recognition of the sentence of death resting upon all that that of themselves, but God was known in the faith of their souls as the God of resurrection. They were delivered by His power and comforted the Corinthians

with the comfort wherewith they themselves had been comforted of God.

From the whole drift of 2nd Corinthians we may see how different is the comfort ministered from that which is human. No mitigation of things here is spoken of nor held out in expectation. What man would call the very worst was anticipated, the dissolution of our earthly tabernacle. But we have been divinely wrought for heavenly glory with Christ, and even now are our eyes set upon unseen and eternal things. The heart is bound to the place where Christ is, and morally severed from things that are here. This leaves no room for disappointment.—Death cannot touch the things that are there, nor can sorrow enter to mar them. There lies the fullest blessing of the Lord which maketh rich and with which He adds no sorrow.

We can understand, therefore, how the apostle bade the Thessalonians comfort each other with the words he wrote for them, which showed that nothing could intervene to rob them of all that was theirs in association with Christ. We can also understand how he could speak to them in his second epistle of *everlasting* consolation which is given to us by our God and Father who loves us.

May God grant to His children deliverance from the delusive comfort which is connected with the flesh and the world, and a knowledge of the true and everlasting encouragement of which He is the Author.—J. R.

---

### GOD FOR US.

God wants to be for everybody, and He would be were it not for their sins. He is for them as sinners just so far as