

keenly—it is your nature—and he who knows your frame does not forbid it; but he forbids you to “faint when you are rebuked of him.” “Thus saith the Lord, Refrain thy voice from weeping, and thine eyes from tears; for thy work shall be rewarded, saith the Lord; and they shall come again from the land of the enemy. And there is hope in thine end that thy children shall come again to their own border.”

4thly. This subject should *stimulate Christian parents* to diligence in the discharge of their duties to their *living* children. The welfare of your children depends, under God, mainly on your faithfulness. How earnest should you be in training them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. If they are so young as to be incapable of instruction, you can only pray for them, and present them in faith to God. But this should only make you the more earnest in doing this. Oh, then, restrain not prayer—and daily carry them in the arms of faith before the mercy seat—plead the promises of the covenant, and commit them to the care of your covenant God. You may soon have to lay them in the grave. How much will it increase the bitterness of separation, to think that you have neglected any means for securing their everlasting happiness.

Lastly. This subject *warns parents to be earnest in seeking their own salvation*. Till you do this you cannot be earnest about the salvation of your children. And if God is gracious to the children of his people, remember that his curse often follows the wicked to the third and fourth generation. Through your neglect, your children may grow up without the fear of God, and perish in their iniquity; but their blood will He require at your hand. But listen to the tender appeal of God: “Oh that there was such an heart in them that they would fear me, and keep all my commandments always, *that it might be well with them and with their children for ever.*” “Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved and *thy house.*”

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