

fit yourselves and others; and leave behind you, when you depart from earth, an example of faith, zeal and patience, which may stimulate others in their efforts to attain Christian excellence. O that we all had the wisdom so to live, as that a few years might convey us to a world of bliss, and when the account is taken, none of us may be lost. What heart, rightly affected by a view of eternity, can contemplate without deep emotion the possible separation for ever of those who now listen to the same gospel—sit in the same seats—and stand in the closest of earthly relations to each other; yet, alas, brethren, this is not merely possible, but probable, unless we awake to new earnestness and concern for ourselves and for each other. Be persuaded, then, to look forward a little way, that you may see how short a course of worldly enjoyment is, and how darkly and wretchedly it must terminate! Then cast your eye upon the path along which the justified sinner is pursuing his way. It looks to you, perhaps, who have no relish for his peculiar pleasures, as if it lay through a dreary wilderness, and so it often is. But amidst all the sorrows and difficulties of that wilderness, he has the favor of a forgiving and reconciled God to uphold and cheer him, to be his pillar of cloud by day and his pillar of fire by night, to fill him with a peace, which the world can neither give nor take away. The Christian's journey is as short and as checkered as the sinner's, but how differently does it terminate. It terminates in a land of rest, and bliss, and glory; where the joy that he now feels in the sense of God's pardoning mercy shall be freed from all that impairs it here. And in the morning of the resurrection, it will be rendered complete by his reunion to a glorified and spiritual body. "And I heard a voice from heaven, saying, write, Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labors, and their works do follow them."

Amen.