

that startles you, then put that question of Jeremy to yourself, "If thou hast run with the footmen and they have wearied thee, what wilt thou do in the swellings of Jordan? If sickness make thee shake what will destruction make thee do? Then again, put the question in another light. If your peace is good for anything, it is one that will bear you up in a dying hour. Are you ready to go home to your bed now to lie there and never rise again? For remember, that which will not stand a dying bed will never stand the day of judgment. If my hope begins to quiver, even when the skeleton hand of Death begins to touch me, how will it shake, "When God's right arm is nerved for war, and thunders clothe his cloudy car?" If death makes me startle, what will the glory of God do? How shall I shrink into nothing, and fly away from him in despair! Then often put to thyself this question, "Will my peace last me when the heavens are in a blaze, and when the trembling universe stands to be judged?"

Oh my dear hearers, I know I have spoken feebly to you this morning; not as I could have wished, but I do entreat you, if what I have said be not an idle dream, if it be not a mere myth of my imagination; if it be true, lay it to heart, and may God enable you to prepare to meet him. Do not be wrapping yourselves up, and slumbering, and sleeping. Awake, ye sleepers, awake! Oh! that I had a trumpet voice to warn you. Oh! while you are dying, while you are sinking into perdition, may I not cry to you; may not these eyes weep for you! I cannot be extravagant here; I am acquitted of being enthusiastic or fanatical on such a matter as this. Take to heart, I beseech you, the realities of eternity. Do not for ever waste your time. "O, turn ye, turn ye; why will ye die, O house of Israel." Listen, now, to the word of the Gospel, which is sent to you. "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and ye shall be saved." For "he that believeth and is baptized shall be saved," while the solemn sentence remains, "He that believeth not shall be damned."

OBTAINING PROMISES.

1. Child of God, babe in grace, wouldst thou obtain the promises? Take this advice first—*meditate much upon them.*—There are promises which are like grapes in the wine-press; if thou wilt tread them the juice will flow. Many a time a believer, when he is like Isaac walking in the fields, meditating in the cool of the day upon a promise, unexpectedly meets his Rebekah, the blessing which had tarried long, comes on a sudden home. He sought retirement to meditate upon a promise, and lo! "being in the way, God met with him." Thinking over the hallowed words will often be the means of fulfilling them. "I was in the spirit on the Lord's day," saith John, "and heard behind me a great voice, as of a trumpet." Just so. It was his being in the Spirit, his meditating upon spiritual things, that made him ready to behold the King in his beauty, and to hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches. Specially, young christian, meditate upon these promises which relate personally to Christ. While you are thinking them over, the faith which you are seeking will insensibly come to you. That word which saith, "the blood of Jesus Christ, his Son, cleanseth us from all sin"—think that over, masticate and digest it, and in the very act of meditation, faith will be born in your soul. Many a man who has thirsted for the promise while he has been considering the divine record, has found the favor which it ensured, gently distilling into his soul, and he has rejoiced that ever he was led to lay the promise near his heart. I think it is Martin Luther who says that some passages of Scripture are like trees which bear fruit, but the fruit does not easily drop. You must get hold of the tree, saith he, shake it, and shake it again, and again, and sometimes you will need to exhaust all your strength, but at the last shake, down drops the delicious fruit. So do you with the promise, shake it to and fro by meditation, and the apples of gold will fall. Let the promise, like the problem of the philosopher, be revolved in your soul, and at last your spirit shall leap for very joy while you say, "I have found it, I have found it, the very thing that my soul hath sought after."

Too much wealth is often the occasion of poverty. He that thinks he can afford to be negligent is not far from being poor.

2. Secondly, young man in Christ Jesus