

margin) for the people of God." This blessed Sabbath of rest begun now in Paradise for Christ's departed saints, will be perfected hereafter in the heavenly glory, after the Resurrection, and at the second coming of the Lord.

Let us look now at these three stages of the rest which the people of God enjoy now, or shall enjoy hereafter, though it is on the second! THE REST OF PARADISE, that I wish more particularly to dwell.

I.

First, there is the rest which our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ promised to all the weary and burdened sons and daughters of men who come to Him, or, as our Church puts it, to all, "Who truly turn to Him."

This is the rest, which through faith in our dear Lord, we may enjoy here and now: Yes even here and now, amid the trials and temptations and sorrows, amid the partings and changes and chances of our life on earth.

This is the rest of pardon; the rest of deliverance from the guilt, and also from the reigning power and dominion of sin, through the precious blood of Jesus, and the indwelling presence in our hearts of the Holy Ghost.

Yes, through that precious Blood sprinkling our conscience, and through that hallowed Presence ruling our will, and sanctifying our whole inner man, we may attain to this present rest of the people of God.

This is the rest of which one of Scotland's poets sings as he dwells on the gracious promise of our Lord:

"I heard the voice of Jesus say,
Come unto Me and rest;
Lay down, thou weary one, lay down
Thy head upon My breast:
I came to Jesus as I was,
Weary and worn and sad;
I found in Him a resting-place,
And He has made me glad."