

duct is always respected even by those who are opposed by it, where it is seen to be sincere, and where the spirit of MEKNESS is preserved.—*Archbishop Sumner.*

STOP, FRIEND.

"Hear and your soul shall live."—*Isa. lv. 3.*

You have to die! You may die to-night! You may die to-morrow! Would you like to go to heaven or to hell? Heaven is glory—hell is misery. In heaven or hell you must be eternally. Are you living in sin—are you out of Christ?—then you are on the road to destruction. Oh, take warning. Poor blind sinner, you are murdering your soul; you are dead in trespasses and sins, you need to be quickened; you need a new heart and a right spirit.

Hitherto you have been living in sin, serving the devil—a bad master, and that you will find if you have to spend eternity with him. You will not get your desires gratified in hell—no pleasure there. God will rain upon you snares, fire, brimstone, and furious storms, and this shall be the portion of your cup for evermore. Oh, take warning in time, get your sins forgiven. You *must* have forgiveness or perish. Jesus will take you now, just as you are; will you take Him? You are a poor, lost sinner. Jesus came to save such as you. Oh, take Him then. Would you not like to be the son or daughter of the King of kings? Decide for Jesus now.

Hundreds are giving up sin and taking Jesus: will you not join them? Ah! it will be a happy thing to be Christ's at the resurrection morning. When the heavens are passing away with a great noise—the elements melting with fervent heat—this earth and the works therein on fire—how will you do on that day if you are out of Christ? That day will come, and as death leaves you judgment will find you. Prepare now; you may never have another chance.

Your life is not insured. Ere this day week you may be wrapped in your winding sheet, and screwed down in your coffin. Oh! prepare now. Jesus wants you: it grieves him to see you going on in sin; he wishes you to come to him, just as you are. Come with all your sins; he wants to cleanse you by his blood. If you come as you are, he will sprinkle his blood upon you, and you will become bright, and lovely, and white, and he will put the robe of his righteousness on you, and then you will be "complete in him." He is worth a thousand worlds. Your soul is precious, Christ is precious, heaven is precious: this world, what is it? It is vanity and vexation of spirit. G.

"RELIGION MAKES MEN GLOOMY."

Who told you so? 'My own heart.' But have you not read, 'The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked?' and will you believe that heart? 'My light-headed companions.' But what do they know about it? they never tasted any of its joys or sorrows, and are in utter ignorance of both. Would you ask a blind man his opinion of colours, or a deaf man his opinion of sounds, and form your judgment by their decision?

Go you to other sources for information ere you pronounce religion gloomy. Go, ask those who have felt its power, who know all the joys of sin and many of the joys of religion, and ask them if such has been its influence. Go to Solomon, the wise king of Israel, and ask him, 'Does religion make men gloomy?' He had drunk of every cup of earthly joy that wealth or influence could command. 'I gathered me,' he says, 'also silver and gold, and the peculiar treasure of kings and of the provinces: I gat me men singers and women singers, and the delights of the sons of men. I was great; and whatsoever mine eyes desired, I kept not from them. I withheld not my heart from any joy.' But was he happy in consequence? 'Behold all was vanity and vexation of spirit.' But when he turned to religion, and her sweet influence came upon his mind, he exclaimed, 'Her ways are ways of pleasantness, and all her paths are peace.'

Religion makes men gloomy! Did it make Paul and Silas gloomy, as they sang praise in the dungeon? Did it make the first martyr, Stephen, gloomy, as he breathed out his soul in peace, and as they looked upon his countenance it seemed like the face of an angel?

But go higher for your answers. Let heaven and hell be appealed to. Which is the happiest place in the universe—is not heaven? Which is the most miserable place in the universe—is not hell? Which is the most religious? Heaven is the most religious; it is all religion there. Which is the most irreligious? Hell is the most irreligious; there is no religion there. Let the joys of heaven, and the agonies of hell, then, give the answer.

No! religion never makes men gloomy; but on the contrary, it has gilded the path of many a tried and afflicted soul through life, and proved the sweetest solace in the hour of death. And the more I feel its influence, and live beneath its power, the nearer I shall come to the joys of heaven, and the light and love and bliss that reign around God's throne.—*Gospel Trumpet.*