

endurance. Now, there is nothing which will endear Christ to us more strongly than these two facts,—that he has suffered for us, and that we suffer for Him.

In these circumstances, a truly Christian temper will lead us to welcome suffering, and to glory in tribulation, that the power of Christ may rest on us. We shall be ready to fill up that which is behind of the suffering of Christ, knowing that if we are partakers of the suffering, we shall be partakers of the consolation even in this world, and that if we suffer with him, and for him, we shall also reign with him.

I infer from this subject, first, that this world is not the scene of the Christian's rewards. Here, indeed, religion will make him far happier than he could be without it; but as I said at the beginning, this life is not a scene of uninterrupted joy, and the greater part of the promises remain unfulfilled. Even on earth wisdom's ways are ways of pleasantness, and all her paths are peace; but the highest rewards are not conferred in this life. The inheritance is *reserved* for us; the glory to be received is a glory that shall follow; the crowns which God's people shall wear are laid up in heaven. Happy is it for us that while we are in this world of temptation, those glorious rewards are withheld that they may serve to attract us upward, and while they enkindle our hopes, may also impart assistance to us in the conflict with temptation. Think not that though the Christian has many peculiar joys on earth, he here receives the full reward. No; the unbeliever receives all his good things in this life, but the Christian does not. Take heart, then, my Christian brother, in all your tribulation. "To him that overcometh," says our Lord, "will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame and am sat down with my Father in his throne." It doth not yet appear what we shall be, but we know that when He shall appear, we shall be, &c.

2. It is not to be wondered at that believers should be troubled and harassed in this life. They are distinctly fore-

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