

one who ever took that way, ever yet failed to reach the kingdom of heaven.

But without dwelling further on this part of the subject, we now turn to the *second* qualification we spoke of. We said there was not a man here who would not find the Lord, provided he would seek him by the *right way*—we say also, provided he seek him in the *right season*.—This, indeed, is the main object of the passage before us; for observe, the text says, “Seek ye the Lord *while* he may be found.” Seek him *until* he be found, and you are *sure* to find him. What we would now speak to is the *right season*.—We know you all *intend* to seek the Lord; probably there is no one in all this assembly but intends to seek the Lord some time or other; and surely it is of the utmost consequence that you and I should understand each other with regard to the best time for seeking him. And we say,—

First, That the best season for seeking the Lord is *not in eternity*. God is *not* to be found in eternity. Eternity is that state into which the soul is ushered by death. It is a very solemn thing to die, not only because of the change which comes over the body, but, still more, because of the change that comes over the soul—not a change of *character*, but a change of *state*. There is no change of *character*. A man dies the very same as he was the moment before he died, and will be the very same for all eternity; and it is the knowledge of that fact that gives a peculiar solemnity to death. What is it which gives its peculiar solemnity to the last quiver of the dying lip—to the last long shivering sigh, that tells us all is over? What makes it worth the while to look the clock, and mark the very hour, the very moment the man expires? It is this:—at that very moment the eternal, everlasting destiny of that being is fixed. And before you have time to draw a sigh, before the body is laid out, and before you have moved from its very side, the soul has entered on its eternal destiny. Lay the body out on its last bed; you leave it; when you visit it in the morning, it is lying as you left it. Lay the body out in the coffin—the skeleton will lie as the body was laid. And this is not more true of the *body* than of the *soul*. The dead man never shifts his *position*, and the dead soul

never shifts its *character*. We grant you we would be very much inclined, sometimes, to believe otherwise if we could.—When David was saying, “O Absalom, my son, my son! would God I had died for thee, O Absalom, my son!” David would have given crown and kingdom, and all the world beside, if he could have believed that after death a soul could be saved, or *one* offer of mercy given—if he could have believed that a man who left this world unpardoned could be pardoned in another. But there is no truth of the Bible more sure and certain than this, that as a man dies, so he remains throughout eternity—that as the tree falls, so the tree lies: “They that are filthy are filthy still; they that are righteous are righteous still.”—We have no need, then, to tell you that you must not wait till eternity to seek the Lord. When eternity arrives—when the cry is heard, “The Bridegroom is coming”—when the lamps are lighted and the doors shut—it will be a sad time to many a man at whose door Christ had stood for days and years, and knocked and knocked, and he would not open to him. Ah! that man shall stand in his turn at Christ’s door, and knock and knock, with prayers such as he never put up before, “Lord, Lord, open to us;” but Christ shall not open to him; “I know you not,” says the Lord; “the door is shut.”

Among all the changes death makes—and these are many and hideous enough, as far as the body is concerned—God never changes, and Christ never changes; but their conduct to the sinner is changed. The moment a man dies, the God who would have heard him before, will refuse to hear him then; and the Saviour who shed his blood for the very chief of sinners, will refuse even a drop of water to cool a burning tongue in hell. Now, that is a fearful and terrible truth, but it is a most solemn, and important, and instructive truth. Jesus is now on a throne of grace; and we ask every sinner in this place. Will you wait for him till he comes to a throne of judgment? Jesus is in this assembly now. He is now waiting and willing to be your Saviour; and will you wait till your impenitence compels him to turn away? “*Whatever thy hand findeth to do, do it with all thy might.*” Do it *now*—this hour—do it before you