—Beloved by Divine love, the mysterious past is made to glow with the glory of God; its light is like a stone most precious, even like a jasper stone, clear as crystal. Once when we looked back into the past we saw the blackness of our guilt and the hole of the pit whence we were digged; but now we behold a silver stream of mercy flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb, and we track it to the eternal purpose of love and the covenant of grace. Gaze as you can into light ineffable, but even with the eye of faith all that you can discern in the ages which are passed is this word, which hath a splendour about it beyond compare—the word "love." In eternity the Lord loved us. Oh, how free is this! How much we owe for it! The past is bright with love, with love most free.—*Spurgeon.*

—"The words which I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life"—quickening and continually life-giving words. We want to be permeated with them; we want them to dwell in us richly, to be the inspiration of our whole lives, the very music of our spirits, whose melodious overflow may be glory to God and good-will to man. Jesus Himself has given us this quick and powerful word of God, and our responsibility is tremendous. He has told us distinctly what to do as to it; He has said, "Search!" Now, are we substituting a word of our own, and merely *reading* them? He did not say, "Read them," but "Search," and it is a most serious thought for many a comfortable daily *reader* of the Bible that, if they are *only* reading and not searching, they are distinctly living in disobedience to one of his plainest commands. What wonder if they do not ' grow thereby!".

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'TIS not for man to trifle. Life is brief,
    And sin is here.
Our age is but the falling of a leaf—
    A dropping tear.
We have no time to sport away the hours :
All must be earnest in a world like ours.

Not *many* lives, but only *one* have we—
    One, only one ;
How sacred should that one life ever be—
    That narrow span !
Day after day filled up with blessed toil,
Hour after hour still bringing in new spoil.