

tion to-day He might divide you into the same four classes.

In business it is necessary to locate oneself; to know the exact amount of indebtedness and what there is to meet it with. In the spiritual life it is even more necessary that we should know our position.

As we consider each class, may the Holy Spirit enable us to place ourselves.

The first class is called "the wayside hearer." "And when he sowed, some seeds fell by the wayside, and the fowls came and devoured them up." That is the road running diagonally across the piece of land. The seed sown remained on the hard surface till it was picked up by the birds. When the Gospel is preached to this class of hearers it remains on their hardened hearts till carried away by the birds which St. Matthew describes as "the evil one." The birds which picked up the sown seed are the thoughts which Satan puts into the heart to crowd out the impressions and thoughts of the sermon and consequently there is no fruit, therefore no blessing.

If I am speaking to this class of hearers when the sermon and service is over, you will commence talking to this one and that one, and before you reach home will have forgotten all about the sermon; it will have made no impression upon your life, no reform in your character, because your heart is like the wayside and the thoughts which now occupy the mind, like the fowls of the air, will carry away the seed that was sown, and consequently you will bear no fruit.

Your heart, like this road, was not always hard. There must have been causes for this which may have had their counterpart in the induration of your heart.