

die—to the last uncertain moment refusing to reckon with God, or trusting to a false statement by a deceitful desperately wicked heart.

A course of piety alone will issue in a surely peaceful end. A thoughtfulness directed to the great objects, for the study of which the power of thought was given us, will alone place us in a position that uncertainty cannot surprise. Let us seek then “the grace that bringeth salvation.”—Think on Christ. Remember Him and He will think on you, and be with you in the hour of need. Build on Him the sure foundation, and you will never be moved nor confounded.

5. Discerning the time is to notice its worth, and its worthlessness,—to form a just judgment in regard to it, and then act in accordance with that judgment.

Time is worth much. It is valuable, not only as all important to us individually—our day of grace; but as the opportunity granted to us to improve and *do good*.

1. It is the season of gracious forbearance:—wrath sleeps:—misguided sinners are to be sought and urged to flee, before it wakens:—and God’s saved ones are to seek them. There will be no opportunities of this kind, no good of this kind to be done, hereafter. Seek good. Do good. There is much sin, affliction, want, wrong in this world. Do good as you have opportunity, wisely, heartily,—all kinds of good to all sorts of men,—as you can,—while *it is to-day*.

2. It is the season of gracious discipline—the time when the Lord chasteneth those whom He loveth. And so, God’s children are often downcast and sad. Christ’s own sheep sometimes wander and suffer.—Those that are His are to love the brethren, and to comfort the mourning and sore at heart. They are to pray for them in their calamities, and forget not to communicate, for with such sacrifices, God is well pleased.

3. It is your own time of training and preparation for heaven, believer, and this is God’s method of making you ready for the coming of the Lord. He gives Christ and all his benefits to make the ransomed like Christ. He gives the Spirit to quicken and make you active in the Lord’s work. He gives grace, all the grace He ever gives,

to fill your lamp that it may be lighted and shine.

4. But in all this, it will be seen that time is valuable only as the vestibule into eternity, and when it is regarded as such by our keeping in mind that we must enter right at this end, if we would come out in glory at the other.

Ask God then to give you sound wisdom and discretion to help you to form a proper estimate of time:—that you may prize it for all the mercies and bounties showered in its course—for its opportunities and privileges—its sanctuaries, and trusting places with God. Pray that you may never forget that it is only a way to an end, and so be kept from setting your heart on anything here that is not to see the light of heaven. “A wise man discerneth &c.,” Considers time, and life, and judgment in the light of God’s word:—feels the awful importance of these things,—governs himself accordingly. He improves time to the uttermost, while he sets his heart on heaven, where changes, deceptions, down-breakings, and losses such as happen in time, can never occur to rob him of his treasure.

Accept the solemn warning given by the notice to all men of passing time. I would see you happy—happy in God’s love. I would not like to see clouds on any countenance at such a season—or at any season. But is it a time to make mirth—such kind of mirth as is too frequently made when this poor earth’s heavy foot-step is heard striding on to the day of doom?

O look on the year now ending—on days and years long since gone. Think of mercies in continuous streams, of deliverances, of blessings manifest, and blessings in disguise. Say, “what shall I render to the Lord &c.?” Think of gifts abused, wasted: of time mispent, lost: of good left undone that cannot be done now: and of evil committed that cannot be done away—*ana pray, “God be merciful &c.”*

Consider the latter end—the inevitable coming of the king of terrors. And to Jesus now. The sinner’s Saviour,—His people’s life and joy. Death’s plague.