

Friends do not last. God be thanked that so many are kind and true!

And life does not last. We must all meet "the last enemy," and fall before him. "We are strangers and sojourners," and "there is none abiding."

But then, blessed be God! there are things which last—things which, though not earthly, can be very largely enjoyed on earth—and, whoever you be, they may be all yours.

Salvation lasts. It is "eternal salvation," salvation "to the uttermost," and the Gospel which announces it is "the everlasting Gospel."

The friendship of Jesus lasts. His love never grows cold; He is never separated from us by distance, for He is with His people "always, even unto the end of the world;" and, as a pledge of His everlasting love and constant presence, He procures for them the gift of the Holy Spirit, the Comforter, to abide with them for ever.

The joys of salvation last. The believing heart can "rejoice in the Lord always;" in youth, and in age, in sickness, and in health, in the deepest poverty, and in the most desolate loneliness; nay, even in death itself.

And heaven lasts. "The things which are not seen are eternal." The Lord Jesus Himself, too, declares that the life He gives to His people is "eternal life." Yes, unlike earth, heaven lasts for ever. Its songs will never cease; its security will never be invaded; its pleasures will be "for evermore."

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**SAYING AND DOING.**



**W**HY call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?"

An old Puritan writer, commenting on these words of the Lord Jesus Christ, says that there are in the world four different kinds of people—

1. There are those who neither do the things which Christ says, nor call Him, Lord, Lord.

2. There are those who call Christ, Lord, Lord, but who do not the things which He says.

3. There are those who do the things which Christ says, but who do not call Him, Lord, Lord; and

4. There are those who both call Christ, Lord, Lord, and do the things which He says.

We should like to ask you, reader, to which of these classes you belong. You must belong to one of them—which is it?

1. We should be very sorry indeed to think that you belonged to the first—that is, to those who will not call Christ, Lord, and who refuse to obey His com-

mandments. For He has the strongest possible right to your submission: first, because He made you; and still further, because He died for you on the cross, that you might have eternal life.

Does not your own conscience—if you will only listen to its voice—tell you that you ought to bow to Him as your Lord, and, at least, to endeavour—seeking the help He is always so ready to give—to do whatever He commands? You will have no true peace till you do this; and the end of your present course, if you persist in it, will be everlasting death.

Hearken to Him, for He still calls you. He offers you free forgiveness, though you have so greatly sinned. Here are His own precious words, spoken for you: "Come unto Me, all ye that labour and are heavy-laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you, and learn of Me; for I am meek and lowly in heart; and ye shall find rest unto your souls."

2. But we should be still more deeply grieved to think that you belonged to those whom the good old Divine text mentions—those who call Him, Lord, Lord, but who do not the things which He says. They who openly cast off His authority, and declare that they do not believe in Him, often do great harm to others by encouraging and inciting them to sin against Him and against God.

But there can be no doubt whatever that they do far greater harm who, whilst they call Him, Lord, disobey His commands. They cause "the way of truth to be evil spoken of," and they embolden men to say that the Gospel is a delusion and a lie, and that all who profess it are hypocrites.

Then be deeply humbled, and very sorrowful, if you have done this; but do not despair. He is willing to forgive you even such great sin; and to give you, through the grace of His own Spirit, a heart which will delight, not only to speak for Him, but to do all His will.

3. Perhaps you belong to the third order; that is to say, you believe in Him as your Saviour; you have humbly confessed to Him your sins, and you have good reason to hope that they are forgiven. Repenting of everything that is evil, you try, depending on His promised help, to do all His will.

But you do this secretly. That is, you do not avow your faith and hope in Christ, and you do not say that the things you try to do which are good and right, you do because Christ commands them, and because He helps you. In your own heart and in your closet you call Him, Lord; but you do not acknowledge Him before men, and it may be that as yet nobody knows that you are a Christian.

But is this right? is it manly? is it grateful? Do you not owe it to Him who has done such great things for you, to tell others of His grace and power? Perhaps you are afraid that men will laugh at you, and mock you; but what a small thing that is to fear for Him who has shown you such exceeding love!

Or, possibly, your fear may be that if you were to avow His name you might dishonour Him; but cannot He keep you from falling and make you very strong? Confess Him. Be not ashamed in the presence and hearing of anybody to call Him, Lord.