

into the maturity of spiritual manhood. Without temptation you will never know how small and mean you are, and how great and good God is. So the apostle says: "Count it all joy, my brethren, when ye fall into divers temptations." Christ is the source of all real gladness. He is the foundation of all joy, temporal and eternal. If you are unhappy, the cause of your misery lies in yourself. Without Christ you cannot find gladness. It would be easier for you to cross the ocean without a ship than to secure gladness without Christ. Christian gladness is converted sadness. "Your sorrow shall be turned into joy." Take your sorrow to Christ, and He will transform it into joy by His own process of alchemy. It seems easy to march through the world in the morning, with the line of the procession unbroken, and the bands playing, but it is hard to march in silence at night when the music has ceased. March on, my friend, and do your work in the gay and also in the sorrowful time. Let Christ into your sorrow, and the light of His heart will change it into a thing of beauty, and your sighs will become songs to cheer the weary hearts of men. Christ not only changes sorrow into joy, but He also transforms joy into better and greater joy. He changes the fleeting pleasures of the world