

Christ is to lay hold on the blessed hope of everlasting life. To be a member of Christ's mystical body, is to have also the life of Jesus as the very essence of his own; for, as Christ declares: "As I live by the Father, so he that eateth me, even he shall live by me."

A living member, thus, of Christ, his great living Head!—precious are the promises to sustain him—rich and free the grace to guide him in his earthly pilgrimage. For him there is "peace in believing," and "joy in the Holy Ghost." The darkest hours of life's journey are cheered by the bright beams of Divine love entering his soul with manifold consolations. And, leaning on the rod and staff of the Good Shepherd, as he descends, with humble confidence, into the dark valley of the shadow of death—even then his heart exults in those blessed words inscribed on the very portals of the tomb where the righteous rest in peace, as he is about to join their noble company, "I know that my Redeemer liveth." "O death, where is thy sting! O grave, where is thy victory! Thanks be to God who giveth us the victory, through our Lord Jesus Christ."

Truths like these are well fitted to warn unbelieving and careless sinners, as to the