

more blessed, and glorious service of Him in the temple and sanctuary above? He shows, however, his true meaning in another passage, where, alluding to the trials and sufferings to which he and his faithful fellow-laborers in the Gospel were exposed, he says, "Therefore we are always confident, knowing that whilst we are at home in the body, we are absent from the Lord; we are confident . . . and willing rather to be absent from the body, and present with the Lord." The plain meaning of the apostle is, that when death calls away the soul from its present home or earthly house, in the body, it brings it forthwith into the presence of the Lord, into that blessed paradise where the saints of Jesus rest from the toils and sorrows and sufferings of their earthly lot; where the voice of the Lord God is heard among them to their great joy and comfort, and where they await, in joyful anticipation, the blessed hour of their "perfect consummation and bliss, both in body and soul, in eternal and everlasting glory through Jesus Christ our Lord."

Thus, then, understand what the Lord Jesus meant when He said concerning the daughter of Jairus, "*She is not dead, but sleepeth.*"

The body, though now subject to the present dominion of death, shall yet at the word, and by the power of the Lord of life and death, be set free; and the spirit, which has entered the future world and there still exists, shall at the command of its Creator, return to dwell in its earthly tabernacle again, no longer a natural body, but raised a spiritual body "clothed with glory, honour, and immortality."

Then, brethren, those who have "fallen asleep in Jesus," who have "died in the Lord," that is, in a full and firm and sincere trust in the all-sufficient merits and mediation of Jesus as a Saviour and an all-prevailing intercessor, these are "*not dead, but sleeping,*" "*absent indeed from the body, but present with the Lord.*" Most consoling truth for all who mourn the departure from this earthly scene of beloved friends; they have laid aside the vile garments of corruption for the pure bright robes of heaven; they have ceased from toil and sorrow and pain, and passed to their peaceful rest in heaven; they have finished their course of service here in the church below, performed amid much trial and sore conflict with