

I speak the truth of science and Scripture. Science teaches you that the earth's fertility is boundless. Cultivate it wisely, and it will blossom as the rose. And what saith the Scripture of God, and the earth which He made? Listen to this. "While the earth remaineth, seed-time and harvest . . . shall not cease." And to this: "The eyes of all wait upon Thee; and Thou givest them their meat in due season." And to this. "The Lord is my Shepherd; I shall not want." Fear not, then, to ask God for your daily bread. He hath promised it; He will give it. Will He give you also oil, wine, fine linen, purple, ivory beds, crystal cups, gold and silver, horses and chariots? I do not know. I advise you not to ask for them.

Be simple in your habits, temperate in your meals, humble in your desires. If God should give you wealth, be grateful, and "watch unto prayer," and give to the poor, lest your heart become hard and selfish, and you forget the Lord who made your cup to run over. Always have a cup ready for some one else. Keep your heart large by giving.

God is a good Paymaster. He will not be debtor to any man. He is a Master who gives good wages; a King who will scatter rubies like dust rather than suffer any of His servants to justly complain of His rewards. His reward will be sure. I open the King's book here and I read. "They that sow in tears shall reap in joy. He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him." I open the King's book again, and I find the King's Son said: "He that loseth his life for My sake shall find it."

Go, then, into the work field and continue your toil for humanity and God, and He will not forget your work of faith and labour of love. And His reward will be abundant. God does not give us an empty sack. He will not offer us a perishable crown.

Wonderful are the sayings of the King's book. "They that turn many to righteousness shall shine as the stars for ever and ever." "They shall be Mine, saith the Lord, in that day when I make up My jewels." "I will give thee a crown of life." "God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes."

Be brave and true, then, in the service of God. Do more for God to-day, and yet more to-morrow. He loveth a cheerful giver, a willing worker, a faithful servant, and an heroic martyr. Hasten, then, to the field, and lay your hand on the plough. Hasten to the battle, and fight valiantly for the Lord. Hasten to homes where dirt pollutes and drink blights, and see what can be done to serve the perishing ones there.

Be diligent, tender, and godly, and when the King cometh He will confess and honour your name. It is even now on the great bead-roll of the saints; but His voice shall give it new fame and life—yea, angels shall hear your name from the King's lips.

Dark and heavy are the clouds which a sense of sin hangs over the horizon of the soul. Bitter is the taste of the wrath of God revealed against all disloyalty to His love. When the arrows of the

Almighty pierce the soul, who can bear it? Oh, ye unconverted ones! ye know the sadness and terror which guilt and unforgiven sins bring to your souls; but you may have at this moment the forgiveness of all your sins, and feel the healing touch of the Saviour's hand. You may be enabled by the Spirit of God to say, "The blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanseth us from all sin."

Come, come, to the Saviour. We need no earthly priest to give us absolution. We need no sacrament to "fit" us for the cross. No; salvation is "by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me." This salvation is free. You need bring no silver, gold, or precious stones. This salvation is full. It is for every soul and for every sin. This salvation is everlasting. It begins on earth, and is continued in heaven. Come, then, to the Saviour—come! He will invest you with the pure robes of salvation, and will beautify you with holiness; and He will make you know that your election is of God unto glory, and peace, and eternal life.

I love to see a simple grave. Sunlight, free winds, birds, children, flowers, and a sweet silence—these are what I like to see when the blessed ones softly sleep until the Lord shall come. He will come to kiss His precious ones into life. He will come to unwrap the white shrouds that He may give them the wedding garment. Yes, they wait, each in his earthly bed, "until the day break, and the shadows flee away." Believe in the coming of that day, and rejoice in the Lord.

Here is Christ's pledge and promise. "This is the will of Him that sent Me, that every one which seeth the Son, and believeth on Him, may have everlasting life, and I will raise Him up at the last day." Oh, blessed hope! Oh, heavenly rest! Oh, Jerusalem the golden, we think not of graves, but of crowns of life; not of death, but of immortality; not of endless sleep, but of sublime work, being in our Father's peerless palace in the skies. It shineth in the city of God, and the city itself hath beauty and light and joy for evermore. It is of pure gold, like unto clear glass. It hath no need of the sun. The nations of them which are saved walk in it. There shall be no weeping there. And within its walls, which are great and high, there shall be no more curse, or darkness, or pain, for all the former things shall pass away.

Are we walking to heaven to-day? Begin the celestial journey. Leave the world behind you, and begin your upward flight. Fear not for the future, only trust your Saviour. Oh, if you only knew how good Jesus is, you would come to Him. He would not have to ask you three times, "Lovest thou Me?" You would not wait to be asked at all, but with tears, and smiles, and penitence, and rapture in one great turmoil of holy passion, you would cry aloud, and say—

Just as I am—Thou wilt receive,
Wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;
Because Thy promise I believe,
O Lamb of God, I come.