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come over their condition. Their aimless, godless, hopeless life is over. They are inside the fold, and in fellowship with the people of God; they have come under provision of the Divine covenant; they have an object to their life, a mission worthy of their nature, a hope that makes the future bright and attractive. They are "made nigh."

But mark how they were made nigh. By what means was this great change accomplished? It was by no effort of their own. It was not by reforming their lives, or the adoption of new and better principles or entering upon the pursuit of a nobler and worthier purpose. Those things are good and have their place, but they can never bring sinners nigh to God. The apostle states distinctly that they "are made nigh by the blood of Christ." That alone has done it. The sacrificial death of Jesus Christ has put mankind into new relations with God, by removing the barrier which separated them, and bridging the chasm. It was sin that alienated man from God. It is sin that separates the heathen from Him to-day, and that separates the sinner in Christian lands from God and from peace and hope. But the blood of Christ has removed this. "He hath once appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself." (Heb. 9:26). That work was done on the cross, and by that the "far off" were "made nigh." Let us never imagine that we are nigh to God because of our improved lives. Every moment of fellowship that we have with God, and with His people, every service we are permitted to render; every enjoyment of His watch-care in the vicissitudes of life; every experience of peaceful rest in Him; and every throb of joyful hope