

friend; to-day thou shalt behold all thy kindred and friends who have departed hence in the Lord—father and mother; sisters and brothers. Oh, happy land, where we meet to part no more! And when shall this be—to-day? so soon? What then shall make the Christian sorrowful? Shall sickness, pain, poverty, imprisonment, death? These light afflictions, which are but for a moment, shall work out for him a far more exceeding, even an eternal weight of glory.

Observe, brethren, there is no mention made here of the soul sleeping until the day of judgment. The soul of the penitent thief is described as passing at once into a place of happiness, and this agrees with what is said by St. Paul, "To be absent from the body is to be present with the soul." In the parable of the rich man and Lazarus, the same truth is inculcated. No sooner is Lazarus dead than his soul is guided by angels into Abraham's bosom, a place of happiness; while the death of the rich man is no sooner recorded, than it is added, "in hell he lifted up his eyes, being in torments." As the tree falls, so it lies; as death finds us, so shall we appear at the bar of judgment.

Beloved brethren, it is a pleasing thought if we have truly repented of our sins past; if we have a lively and steadfast faith in Christ our Saviour, months, weeks, days, and hours are bearing us rapidly on to that time when the Lord shall say to each one of us, "To-day shalt thou be with me in paradise." But let us not forget that this will not be the happy lot of all. To the believer in Christ the voyage to heaven is short, but is it shorter than the descent of the wicked to hell? Lazarus was carried by angels into Abraham's bosom, but fiends of hell conveyed the soul of the rich man as speedily to his last resting-place. Oh, that the adulterer, the swearer, the thief, the liar, the Sabbath-breaker would consider these things! Brethren, are any of you committing these sins? When do you intend to forsake them? What assurance have you that you will live to see another day? This night thy soul may be required of thee, and the whole of your after-history may be summed up in these touching, these heartrending words, "In hell he lifted up his eyes, being in torments." Oh, brethren, it is near, even at the door. "Ex-