

God's divinest glory?" These words remind you that entering into the joy of the Lord is not only one of, but *the chief felicity of Heaven*; its highest hope, its promised reward, its perfection of beauty, its heaven of heavens. That joy is the great object of their love, the great theme of their converse, the great burden of their song. In that painless world, where there is nothing to disturb the harmony, distress the heart, darken the prospect, violate the friendships, or sadden the home, saints shall dwell in the joy of the Lord. In that happy land whose fields have no blight, whose landscapes have no defect, whose skies have no clouds, whose gales have no storm; — there the redeemed have entered into the joy of the Lord, and who shall describe the rich and kingly rapture of that joy, so unselfish and benevolent and free and gladdening and stainless and perfect?

3rd. *The reward includes the highest exaltation and dignity.* "Thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things." The question may be asked: "Will there be anything answering to this in the heavenly state?" We admit that there is much that is figurative and emblematic here, as might be expected when such a world is represented; but laying aside all imagery, there may be the most literal fulfilment of this expectation in that land where saints are to be kings and priests forever, where racers reach the prize, where stewards are made princes, where warriors are crowned in victory, and where the Master says: "To him that overcometh will I give to sit with me upon my throne." The inseparable connection between being faithful and being made rulers *expressive of the principle*, may go far to explain the mystery. It shows you that it is not a novel idea but a mere truism, as old and common as Christianity. The churches throughout all ages have been chanting it in that old psalm, "If we be dead with Him we shall also live with Him; if we suffer with Him, we shall also reign with Him; if we have fellowship with His sorrows, we shall also be glorified together." The connection is one of the most blessed verities of our faith, "Be thou faithful unto death and I will give thee a crown of life." A true and faithful servant shall receive the royal gift and reflect the royal splendor in the world to come. The greatness, the eminence, the distinction, the dignity is indescribable. Sitting upon thrones of glory and wearing royal diadems and wav-