

Shall we receive good at the hands of the Lord, and shall we not also receive evil? Shall we enjoy a blessing, and then the moment that blessing is taken away, forget all the former happiness, and all the benefits received, and deliver ourselves over to the wretchedness of repining? Shall we not also cherish a joyous and thankful recollection of what was once ours, and what has been taken away without any real injury to ourselves? When a young mother sees the cruel earth hide from her view the bright pallid form of her babe, she is apt to see only darkness and sorrow surrounding the tomb; but as a matter of fact, she has gained much from that brief life for which she should be most devoutly thankful. She has gained an undying love; a fountain of affection has been opened up which shall continue to flow on and on with perennial freshness. She has gained sweet memories and tender associations. And if she be a Christian, she has also gained treasure in heaven. For she can look forward with gladsome anticipation to a blessed re-union with her child. The same principle operates with even greater fullness and greater richness in the present instance. Under the shadow of bereavement we can recall and remember a beautiful life—a life of devotion to God and his cause, a life of great usefulness in the church, a life of great silent power in the community. As we look back, we are confronted by a legion of memories and facts and associations which are now pleasant to reflect upon; and for all these things we should be thankful.

Then "he being dead yet speaketh." The influence of a well-spent life does not come to a close at death; it goes on as a living energizing force, doing its beneficent work, in persuading from a life of sin, in stimulating to a life of righteousness. Our brother embodied and vitalized the truth as it is in Jesus; his life was a sermon, and still remains as a sermon; and may we not hope that now, after he is gone, his influence for good, operating on the faculty of memory, may be as great as when he was alive? Let us be thankful because he is still influentially alive; and that, although he is no longer with us, his consecrated spirit may still work with subtle invisible power in some hearts, moulding into nobler manhood, and impelling towards Christ and His example.

Why is it that such a man is missed? Several answers might be given to this question; but one main reason is, because he was an active useful member of the Christian church; he was a worker. He let his light shine, and co-operated heartily in all good endeavors for the advancement of God's cause. There is a natural feeling that such a man as that can be ill spared, because men of that type are always in the minority and there are none too many left. The problem, then, that comes before us is this: Is our spiritual power as a congregation to be lessened by the promotion to heaven of him who was but recently with us? Is the sum total of our consecration to be diminished by the extent of his individual consecration? Surely we