

Death, therefore, is not compared to sleep on account of its leaving the soul in a state of unconsciousness, but on account of the repose which the body obtains in the grave, and the rest from the cares, and toils, and troubles of life which the soul enjoys in the presence of its God.

From the day that sin entered into the world, man has been doomed to eat his bread in the sweat of his face. His body is subject to many pains, and his mind is the seat of many cares and sorrows. The believer has many temptations to contend with—a severe spiritual warfare to endure. But at death he is delivered from all his toils, his sufferings, his sorrows, and his fears, and he enters into the rest which remains for the people of God. From the time that he falls on the sleep of death, his sufferings are over, for death is the last enemy that he has to encounter. No cares nor toils, no animosities nor fears, disturb the repose of the grave; and into that world to which the soul is gone, nothing can enter that will give any annoyance. The soul, there purified from all its corruptions, and conformed to the image of its Saviour, shall enjoy perfect and uninterrupted happiness for ever and ever. Of the greatness of the happiness enjoyed by believers after death we can yet form no adequate conception: for eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither hath it entered into the heart of man to conceive, what things God hath prepared for them that love Him. Hence, the