

reaction of spirit and matter. He would, if best for us, fill our hearts with little-heavens every morning, independently of ourselves, and guard our sunny life with visible seraph bands created for the purpose. He would—what would He not do, if necessary for our truest welfare?

God *will* do for us the best thing.

The highest design of the Lord God with humanity is moral goodness. His grand end is not to make man a Cræsus or Napoleon here, but an Abraham, an angel yonder. To lift man to a pedestal on earth; to enrich and embellish his intellect with the brightest trophies of human lore; with the science of rock and sky, flower and sea; to fill his coffers with the pelf of banks and the riches of mountain and mountain cavern, of ocean and ocean cave—to do all this for man and end there is to do but little—is to fail. Dust blessings, mere intellectual boons, may be soul banes. To set man upon a golden mole-hill, to lift him above the throng, may be to sink him in moral mud; dwarf the spiritual forces of his nature. God has better things for the saintliest than dust and toys. He has soul sympathy; He has heart love; He has a God for the aching spirit gap; He has everything that is worth having for the upright.

II. Those to whom God is so good.

"Them that walk uprightly." Mark the *condition* upon which we receive the purest benedictions, the deepest beatitudes of God—uprightness of character.

Note ideas implied. Here man's *responsibility* is implied.

By virtue of God's fiat and presence man is a moral cause. He can will to do, and not to do. Adam, of the garden, could fall; Adam, of the wilderness, by virtue of the atonement, can rise. God is in humanity, through the cross, giving religious possibilities which man may pervert or improve, use or neglect. Unused—the eye or limb becomes useless, so with the capacity of religion. Unused—the religious talent will die away—the best side of man rust out. God says walk uprightly. To do so is man's business.

Here the *advantage* of the upright is implied. This man's best friend moves the mechanism of things, and all the varied dispensations transpire for his good. His Father

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