

so solemn a side to death, there is also a very bright side. Though St. Paul thought that to abide in the flesh was more needful for the church, yet he had a desire to depart and to be with Christ, which is far better. Death after all, in view of the great future, is but a light affliction, which may be truly said to be but for a moment, but beyond it there is a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory. The children of God know that, if their earthly house of this tabernacle be dissolved, they have a building of God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. St. Paul well expressed then the feeling of most servants of God, when he said "not for that we would be unclothed, but clothed upon, that mortality might be swallowed up of life." The unclothing has its sadness, but the clothing upon speaks of an endless life. How glowing the picture in the close of the Bible of the Home that is in Heaven: "And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes: and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away." And again "There shall be no night there: and they need no candle, neither light of the sun; for the Lord God giveth them light; and they shall reign for ever and ever."

Brief life is here our portion,  
 Brief sorrow, short-lived care,  
 The life that knows no ending,  
 The tearless life is there.  
 O happy retribution!  
 Short toil! Eternal rest!  
 For mortals and for sinners  
 A mansion with the bless'd!

My dear young friends it is at once my duty and my privilege to assure you that God freely offers to us all that He is preparing for His people and is ready by the Spirit to fit us for it. God, by this late trial, as by many a Providence before it, is saying to every one of us "Seek ye my face"—May we reply "Thy face, Lord, will I seek." Let me say a few words to help you in this.

First I bid you cherish a loving trust in God. That is the secret of all true seeking after God. We must believe that He is and that He is the rewarder of them that diligently seek Him. Assure yourselves that God is Love. Our reason tells us this. Day by day we experience it. But how wonderful the dimensions of the love the Bible discloses. He spared not from us His own Son. Surely in Him He must be ready to give us all