

sorrow, and toil, and pain, and storm, and we shall be where all is calm, and peace, and rest, and joy, and sunshine *forever*.

Thus far, I have spoken only in a general way of the bliss of heaven. I will now endeavor to point out, briefly, a few of the specific ingredients of that divine, complete, varied, and everlasting happiness in which the redeemed shall participate in heaven.

I am aware that in the Bible we have but brief descriptions of heaven, and these are mostly given in negative terms. And I would not venture to speak positively on this subject of anything which God has not revealed in his word. But he has even upon these low grounds of sin and sorrow, given us foretastes of the bliss of the heavenly home. We often quote the words, "eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man the things which God hath prepared for them that love Him," and we stop there; but the apostle says, "*But God hath revealed them unto us by His Spirit.*"

(a) One element of the bliss of heaven is the absence of sin. The evil fly which spoils the precious ointment at our richest feasts is sin. Even in our hours of most hallowed enjoyment we are made sad by the consciousness of sin that dwelleth in us. Job felt this so keenly that he cried, "I abhor myself, and repent in dust and ashes." The Psalmist felt so powerfully the working of sin in him that we hear him beseeching God for mercy, saying, "Have mercy upon me, O God, according to thy loving kindness; according unto the multitude of thy tender mercies blot out my transgressions." Paul was so oppressed with a sense of indwelling sin that he compared it to a dead and loathsome body attached to him. In an agony of spirit he exclaimed, "O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death?"

The experience of those holy men of olden times has been the experience of God's people all along the ages; and the nearer they have lived to God the keener have been those painful sensations. But in heaven we shall be perfectly free from sin. We shall know it no more, except in the joyful consciousness that it is separated from us forever. Into that holy city there shall in no wise enter any thing that defileth.

(b) Another ingredient in our heavenly happiness will be the consciousness of complete triumph over all our spiritual enemies. On earth the life of a Christian is a warfare. No one can enter the kingdom of heaven without arduous labor. It must be taken by force. We are at present in a world which lieth in wickedness. It is in the hands of the enemy; and if we ever reach the mansions of holiness and peace, it must be through tribulation and strife. Hence we are exhorted to "fight the