

we must all look for help, both for time and eternity. The purpose for which the eternal Son of God came into the world can never be declared too fully, or proclaimed too loudly. He came to give us hope and peace while we live among the 'things seen', which are temporal, and glory and blessedness when we go into the 'things unseen', which are eternal.

Our Lord Jesus Christ has purchased these tremendous privileges for us at the cost of His own precious blood. He became our Substitute, and bore our sins in His own body on the cross, and then rose again for our justification. "He suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God." (1 Peter 3:18)

He was made sin for us who knew no sin, that we poor sinful creatures might have pardon and justification while we live, and glory and blessedness when we die.

Let us all settle it firmly in our minds that the only way to pass through 'things seen' with comfort, and look forward to 'things unseen' without fear, is to have Christ for our Saviour and Friend, to accept Christ by faith, to become one with Christ and Christ in us, and while we live in the flesh to live the life of faith in the Son of God. **J. C. Ryle**

INVITATION

If you desire to know the Lord Jesus Christ as your Saviour, send us your name and address, in block capitals and we will send you a free copy of the booklet, *Pardon for Sin, And Assurance of Peace with God* by **W. J. Patton**.



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TEMPORAL AND ETERNAL

The things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal. **2 Corinthians 4:18**

We live in a world where all things are temporary and passing away. Humbling and painful as these truths may sound, it is good for us all to realise them and take them to heart. The houses we live in, the homes we love, the riches we accumulate, the jobs we do, the plans we form, the relationships we enter into - are only for a time. These things are only temporary. "The fashion of this world passeth away." (1 Corinthians 7:31)

The great unseen state of existence which lies beyond the grave is for ever. Whether it be happy or miserable, whether it be a condition of joy or sorrow, in one respect it is utterly unlike this world - it is for ever. There at any rate will be no change and decay, no end, no goodbye, no mornings and evenings, no alteration, no annihilation. Whatever there is beyond the tomb, when the last trumpet has sounded, and the dead are raised, will be endless, everlasting, and eternal. "The things which are not seen are eternal."

Let us realise, for one thing, that the future happiness of those who are saved is eternal. However little we

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may understand it, it is something which will have no end; it will never cease, never grow old, never decay, never die. At God's "right hand there are pleasures for evermore." (Psalm 16:11) Having arrived in Heaven, the saints of God shall never leave. Their inheritance is "incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away." (1 Peter 1:4) They "shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away." (1 Peter 5:4)

Their warfare is accomplished; their fight is over; their work is done. They shall hunger no more, neither thirst any more. They are travelling towards a home which shall never be broken up, a meeting without a parting, a family gathering without a separation, a day without night. Faith shall be swallowed up in sight, and hope in certainty. They shall see as they have been seen, and know as they have been known, and be forever with the Lord. I do not wonder that the apostle Paul adds,

Comfort one another with these words.

1 Thessalonians 4:18

"Comfort one another with these words." (1 Thessalonians 4:18). Let us also realise that the future misery of those who are finally lost is eternal. I am aware that this is an awful truth, and flesh and blood naturally shrink from the contemplation of it. I am one of those who believe it to be plainly revealed in Scripture, and I dare not keep silent.

Our state in the unseen world of eternity depends entirely on what we are in time. The life that we live upon earth is short at the very best, and soon gone. Short as our life is here, and endless as it will be hereafter, it is a tremendous thought that eternity hinges upon time. Our lot after death depends, humanly speaking, on what we are while we are alive. It is written, God "will render to every man according to his deeds: to them who by patient continuance in well doing seek for glory and honour and immortality, eternal life: but unto them that are contentious, and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, indignation and wrath." (Romans 2:6-8)

The Lord Jesus Christ is the great Friend to whom