

What Are You?

I don't know who you are, my dear reader, but it is vitally important to yourself *what you are*. Are you a sinner on the road to misery? Or are you a saint on the road to blessedness? One of these you must be. There are only two masters, Christ and Satan; two roads, the narrow and the broad; two destinations, heaven and hell. As your present and everlasting well-being depend on the answer to this question, it is surely of the utmost importance that you know what you are. It is one of the most important questions you will ever face. Let your conscience answer it.

Are you one of those who are madly pursuing the vanities and pleasures of this fleeting world? Are you alive for time, asleep for eternity? Then you are cultivating Satan's ground, and securing your own destruction.

Whoever is the friend of the world, cannot be the friend of God (Matthew 6:24; James 4:4). Oh, think what is implied in that expression, not to be a friend of God! If not the friend of God, you must be the friend of Satan; but Satan is a hard master. What wages do you expect in his service? "The wages of sin is death" (Romans 6:23). Will you serve him now, who will suffer with, and add to the eternal torment of his followers? What can I say to you, who prefer Satan as your master over Him who is "Emmanuel, God with us" (Matthew 1:23); and who prefer his service over Jesus' perfect freedom? You don't know not what you are doing! You are heaping up to yourself "wrath against the day of wrath" (Romans 2:5), standing on the brink of eternal ruin (Psalm 9:17). You cannot escape God's all-seeing eye. Do you ever think, when committing sin, that though it may be hid from man, "Thou, God, seest me" (Genesis 16:13)? Ah! I fear not. No language can describe the illusion you live in; but there is a time fast approaching when the truth will be felt in all its tremendous reality.

Remember, you cannot stay forever in this world—you must die. It may be very soon. "This night thy soul may be required of thee" (Luke 12:20). Yet, after death, you are to exist forever. Forever! Where? Ah, where? If you are living without God, you know the place where you are headed. And can you, without horror and dismay, contemplate that place where the worm dies not, and the fire is never quenched—where there are weeping, and wailing, and gnashing of teeth? (Mark 9:43-48). Think of such inevitable destruction, and tell me whether you can still let others go to heaven, there to enjoy uninterrupted happiness, whilst you, having chosen what God does not delight in, shall be thrust down to hell, to spend your FOREVER in the blackness of darkness (Jude 13). Away with such a wicked and horrific thought! What! An intelligent being preparing, deliberately preparing himself, for everlasting burnings! How tremendously revolting to a serious mind! And all for the pleasures of sin, which last only for a short season.

Do you never experience trouble in the world, that you love it so much? And oh, let me ask you what the world will do for you at death? Will it give you one shadow of comfort? How often do the agonies of a guilty conscience, on a deathbed, give us an example of the misery which will be completed in eternity? Never think you will have time enough to turn from sin, when sickness and death approach. A deathbed may never come to you—you may be hurried to the eternal world without a moment's warning. "Now is the accepted time, now is the day of salvation" (2 Corinthians 6:2). We never read in the Bible that tomorrow will be time enough. Who will presume to say that he will live another day, and do this or that? (Psalms 95:7; Proverbs 27:1).

Jehovah hath “no pleasure in the death of the wicked.” Harken to His kind, pleading words: “Turn ye, turn ye; why will ye die?” (Ezekiel 33:11). “The Spirit and the Bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come: and whosoever will, let him take of the water of life freely” (Revelation 22:17). Yes, God is willing, through the merits and death of Christ, to save all who come to Him in earnest. Of this you ought not to doubt; look to Calvary's cross for the delightful proof, that “God so loved the world that he gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth on Him should not perish, but have everlasting life” (John 3:16). Multitudes have already experienced the blessedness of believing this truth. Still there is room—room in heaven for you. Christ is the way, the truth, and the life, and there is salvation in no other (John 14:6; Acts 4:12). Rush then to Jesus for refuge for your soul. You are safe in no place, and at no time, but under the cover of redeeming blood. Happy are they who are in such a condition; happy, indeed, is the people whose God is the LORD. Christ is precious to them, their treasure is in heaven, their hearts are also there. “And when Christ, who is their life, shall appear they shall also appear with Him in glory” (Colossians 3:4). Happy people in time—happy through eternity. Will you not join the happy, the blessed number? Oh, let there be joy in heaven on your account (Luke 15:7). Do you not feel a sense of the seriousness of these things? You have a soul to be saved, and a crown of glory set before you!

Could I tell you the happiness experienced by the children of God, even here in this world of suffering, would it not affect you, to think you are a stranger to the sweetness of the Christian faith? You know not what is meant by “the communion of saints.” How delightful is it for Zion's children to converse about the King, the Lord of Glory, or their own precious immortal souls—to consider together the great need of the heathen in darkness, or the world lying in wickedness! How animating to bow the knee at the footstool of mercy, and pray for pardon and peace for all mankind! How enrapturing to converse regarding the triumphs of the cross—the prosperity of the church—the inroads made on Satan's kingdom, by the daily and hourly additions to the number of the saved—and the final and universal conquest of light and truth over darkness and error! What contemplations arise in connection with the land of consummate bliss—the Zion above—the new Jerusalem! And oh, how sweetly comforting to have the prospect of meeting hereafter in that land “of cloudless sky,” and there rehearsing together the wonders of redeeming mercy! In that land the redeemed shall love, adore, and praise better than they used to do on earth. There, love shall forever glow without the least abatement—admiration shall forever increase—and the most exalted and harmonious songs of praise shall burst forth from ravished hearts, through the endless ages of eternity! There are the white robes—the crown of glory—the palms of victory—the ever delightful worship—the hallelujahs which make heaven's portals ring—and there is to be seen the object of incomparable wonder, to whom this praise belongs—the Man Jesus Christ, on His throne, high and lifted up; and all this blessedness has been provided by infinite love!

What do you think, O reader, of such things? What do you think about Christ (Matthew 22:42)? Of what He has done to save sinners? Of what He has gone to prepare for those who love Him? Say, does not His love have a depth and a height, length and a breadth, which passes all knowledge? (Ephesians 3:18-19). Surely there is nothing but Christ and His cause worth living for!

There is a reality in religion, whatever scoffers may say. A present reward is experienced in the keeping of God's commands. “Wisdom's ways are ways of pleasantness, and all her paths are peace” (Proverbs 3:17). This peace passeth all understanding—it must be enjoyed to be perfectly understood. the world can neither give it nor take it away. You are capable now of becoming an expectant, and at last a partaker of this infinite blessedness. Accept the Savior, give yourself up entirely to Him, and

undoubtedly you will say, you never knew happiness, real happiness, till you became a possessor of real religion. Come to Christ as you are, wretched, miserable, poor, blind and naked (Revelation 3:17). In Him all fulness dwells (Colossians 2:9). Trust alone in His blood and righteousness. He has done all that is necessary for your salvation.

Now, if you are still determined to remain careless about your soul and eternity, I will leave you alone, and stop trying to describe your fearful condition. Time is given to prepare for eternity; miss this, and you are lost forever. Oh, kiss the Son, lest He be angry, and ye perish from the way (Psalm 2:12). Escape for your life—look not behind! Death is approaching. Judgment is approaching. Eternity is approaching!



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