

HEAVENLY REST

FOR A

WEARY SOUL:

OR, THE

PILGRIM at his Journey's End,

BEING

The Last LEGACY of a FATHER to his CHILDREN, when on his Death-Bed.

CONTAINING

The Children's Duty to God, their Mother and Themselves.

A COPY of VERSES written by the Father, a little before his Death.

III. Some GODLY MEDITATIONS.

The FATHER'S last GIFT to his CHILDREN.

BY THE REVEREND MR. JOHN BUNYAN.

Very pleasant to read, profitable to practise, and of excellent Use to all sorts of People who desire to live a godly life, in this present evil world.

STERLING:

PRINTED AND SOLD BY C. RANDALL.

1806.

1. The Father's admonition to his Children before his Death wherein he informs them, *First* Of their duty to God *Secondly*, To their Mothers: And, *Thirdly*, Of what they owe to each other.

MY Children I must now leave you I am going to a better place: my glass is almost run, I have fought a good fight, and have finished my course, and henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of glory. In my youth I was wild and ungodly, as most were; I spent my time idly, and never regarded what I did: so I could but please and satisfy my appetite. I have since my conversion, (thanks be to God) taken heed to my ways, and lived as uprightly as I could: for, if I did any wrong it was against my will: I have lived according to the rules of the holy scriptures, as much as in me lay. I loved the worst of my enemies but hated their wicked ways who cast false aspersions upon me, but I owe no man ill, heartily forgiving all who have been my enemies, as I hope to be forgiven thro' Christ Jesus my dear Lord. My dear Children, let me entreat you to be admonished by my words, and I take my exhortation as a legacy; I having (you well know) very little to leave you.

First. Let me put you in mind of your duty to God.

Secondly, To your Mother: And,

Thirdly. to one another. But,

First. Of your duty to God.

'Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you,' James vi 8. This very exhortation given by James an Apostle of our Lord and

behaviour Jesus Christ is enough to induce you, without any other to draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you, if you fear God, he will defend you, if you are willing to return from your evil ways, he will receive you: He desires to be loved, it is your own fault. And indeed, the text comprehends a great deal of comfort, it brings salvation to a wretched sinner, it speaks to all men: So much by way of exhortation.

Let me now hasten to the first particular, which was to lay before you, your duty to God; Fear God, and keep his commandments for this is the whole duty of man, Eccl. vii. 13. There you see your duty; fear God, not to offend is your duty, tho' comprehended so in the first part, Be careful to serve him, fearful to offend him, diligent to keep his laws and willing to obey his commands; abide all his corrections with patience murmur at none of his sayings, live honestly, love all men; lie not, swear not, cheat not, nor take the Lord's name in vain: covet not that which is another man's; love the Lord with your whole heart; fear him; and praise his name; mortify your lusts and unclean passions; resist the devil and he will fly from you: Suffer any thing for your religion, death itself; and in all things submit to the will of God. I shall conclude this head with these precepts, &c.

1. Fear to do any thing against that God whom you love, and you will not love to do any thing against that God whom you fear.

2. Let your prayers be as frequent as your wants, and your thanksgivings as your blessings.

3. In the morning, think what you have to do, for which ask God's blessing; and, at night think of what you have done that is sinful, for which ask him forgiveness.

4. Take an exact account of your life. be not afraid to look upon the score, but to exercise it. To despair, because a man is sinful, is to be worse, because he hath been bad.

5. Consider the shortness of your life, and the certainty of judgment for the wicked: and so you will have but one day to repent of before you die.

6. Do injury to no one: for by injuring others you teach them to injure you.

7. Innocence will be the best guard. He who dares to be wicked sometimes for his advantage will always be so if his interest requires it.

And so much for the first head: I come now in the second place, to tell you of the duty you owe to your mother.

'Honour your father and mother' &c. the fifth commandment; A wise son heareth his father's instruction,' Prov. xiii. 1. And gain Prov. vi. 26. 'My son, keep thy mother's commandments, and forsake not the law of thy mother'. Here you may see that duty to your parents, is a command of God. Solomon, the wisest man that ever was, gives you this character of a wise son (that is a dutiful son) he hearkens to his father's instructions, and willingly obeys.

Consider then my son, on what I have said, honour your mother when I am in my grave. I give you this charge in the sight of God, and Christ Jesus our Lord.

Thirdly and lastly, I come to the duty we owe to one another.

My children, take warning by the vicious habits of other men, and you will do well: whilst others strive one against another, do you strive to do good for one another; and whilst others are at variance and revile each other, do you pray for and comfort one another.

To conclude, Mind what I have said, and lay it up in your hearts, and implore God's blessing upon it. I must leave you, but I hope we shall one day meet face to face, in the presence of the Almighty, where pleasures flow, and joys abide for evermore.

I. A COPY of VERSES that he had made upon Himself, not long before his death.

Forbear, fond man and weep no more, 'tis vain,
 When heav'n decrees, 'tis folly to complain:
 This wordly mass is subject to decay,
 And death and nature all things must obey:
 The blushing rose shines with the morning sun,
 Just then looks gay, now withers and is gone:
 Pardon my sins, Almighty God I pray!
 Forgive them all and bear them hence away;
 Then my provoking soul shall upwards fly,
 And leave, with joy, this world of vanity.

III. Some Godly MEDITATIONS.

NO creature under heaven, can afford my soul any comfort, only thou, O Lord, the Physician of souls: thou bringest man nigh unto death, and restorest him unto life again, thereby shewing his weakness, and thy power;

therefore all love and praise be to thee, O Lord.

O God, I extol thy name; and tho' I'm a sinful creature. I will not cease to give thee thanks to the utmost of my strength: I will declare thy justice and mercy, and whilst I live, will declare thy name.

As for man, he is but dust, and vanishes: his life is but a span, and full of misery.

Oh heavenly Father, let me not forget mine own frailty; let me consider what I am, and remember what I shall be; then shall I not forget to leave myself, and long after thee.

My sins O Lord are before thy face; I cannot turn no way but they pursue me: I entreat thee to pardon them. Consider my necessity most mighty God, and deliver me for thy Son's sake.

Although my offences are more in number than the hairs of my head, yet, Lord shew mercy, and forgive them. I know, though my sins were as scarlet, yet thou canst make them white as snow: therefore, O Lord, to thee be glory for evermore.

Truly, Lord, I see no cause why I should long to abide in this life. If I was arrived to such perfection as the apostle Paul was, I should desire earnestly (as he did) to be with Christ.

O God I beseech thee, to give me such things as are for thy glory, and the good of them who love thee and walk uprightly.

O my God, I pray thee, mortify the corruptions of my heart, cleanse thou me from secret faults, and send thy good Spirit to write thy law upon my heart.

Thy ways, O Lord, are the ways of right.

7
eousness, and all thy commandments are truth
and holiness: as for thy will, it is altogether up-
right: true and holy art thou, O Lord of hosts.

O God of all truth, my panting soul longs
for thee: thou art the fountain of all blessed-
ness; I am thine, save thou me from trespassing
against thee.

O! my sins are many, but do not surpass the
power and glory of thy grace; and as for mine
iniquities, thou shalt purge them away. I
thank thee, therefore O thou Lord of heaven
and earth for forgiving love and mercy in
the face of Jesus Christ, my only Lord and Sa-
vour.

O my God arise and deliver me from this vale
of wickedness, where my temptations have been
many: Create in me O God, a clean heart;
O Lord, lift thou up the light of thy countenance
upon me, that the inmost recesses of my soul may
be enlightened, that I may behold wonderful
things out of thy law and gospel, and be made
of quick understanding in the fear of the Lord:
When shall I give thee praise for ever and ever,
through Jesus Christ my Lord.

I recommend my soul into thy hands, for thou
hast redeemed me, O God of truth and righte-
ousness: Be thou my defence against the fears
of death: that notwithstanding the suggestions
of the tempter, I may escape all his fatal snares,
that he may not have the power to do me any e-
vil. Give thy angels charge over me to defend
me, and carry me safe through the regions of the
air, to Immanuel's land, and to thy right hand
in heaven above where there are pleasures for

evermore; where we shall be made kings and priests unto God, and go no more out, when we shall throw down our crowns before thee, in token of our gratitude. crying, "Worthy is the Lamb that was slain (although we are unworthy to receive power, might, majesty, dominion and blessing, and thanksgiving in the highest to ever and ever." Amen.

IV. His Last GIFT to his CHILDREN.

MY Children dear, a legacy,
with you I now do leave:
Pray read it o'er, and you will soon,
my purposes perceive:
First to your God your duty shew,
and live up to his laws:
Then comfort you'll hereafter take,
and vindicate his cause.
Next give all honour that is due,
unto your mother dear;
Such will be happy you will find,
while they do tarry here:
Love to your brethren God commands,
that you will also shew;
You then shall ever live in peace,
in joy and honour too.
Pray love your neighbour as yourself,
behave to them most just:
In all your thoughts, words and works,
then you in God may trust:
Then he'll preserve you in your steps,
that you shall never fall:
He will always be your sure friend,
your God, your guide and all.

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