

April 29.

"Mine iniquities are gone over mine head: as an heavy burden they are too heavy for me."— Ps. xxxviii. 4.

"The Lord hath laid on Him the iniquity of us all."—Isa. liii. 6.

I have observed that Christians differ very much from each other, and vary at different times themselves in the feeling of the load of sin. Not that a child of God can ever be indifferent, or have *no* sorrow for sin, but the sense of it as a *burden* is different in different minds, and in the same mind at different times. Sometimes the Lord shews us what is in our hearts in a fearful manner, and we start back appalled with the dark sight; so that, unless the Lord also shews how He has laid on Christ the iniquity of our sins, we would sink in despair. Such minds as those of the holy Henry Martyn and David Brainerd were deeply exercised in this way; and the record of their searchings of heart and profound humiliation for sin ought to be very instructive to us, in shewing us how hateful to a holy mind the presence of sin is. But sometimes such records produce a hurtful effect. They may make those who have never felt such deep sorrows fear that they have never gone to Christ at all; while it may be that the constitution of their minds is naturally different, and they may be of those who, like Bunyan's pilgrim, having once got sight of the Cross, their burden has fallen from them into the sepulchre, to be seen no more. The more we know Christ, and truly love Him, the more we shall truly know ourselves and hate our sin. O Lord, grant that my confessions may be *genuine* and my sorrow for sin *real* before Thee; and when I see my guilt, may I also see it forgiven through Christ's atoning blood!

Good Words for Every Day of the Year,
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April 30.

"A little while, and ye shall not see me: and again, a little while, and ye shall see me, because I go to the Father."—John xvi. 16.

The disciples could not understand this declaration, and only knew that it meant for them some great, undefined sorrow in separation from their beloved Master. But Jesus graciously gave them the explanation they shrank from asking, and tells how the sorrow of parting was to precede the birth of joy, when He says— "I will see you again, and your heart shall rejoice, and your joy no man taketh from you." And so He says now, for the comfort of His people, "I will see you again." He will see them, and they shall see Him face to face. That is heaven! "The little while" of separation shall soon be past: it is but a *little* while at the longest—very little, indeed, compared with the great eternity. We are not to wonder if we have sorrow now; we are "*absent from the Lord*" while present in the body; and the more our hearts are filled with love, the more shall we long for the day of His appearing and glory. May He give us grace to spend the "little while" of our pilgrimage here to His praise, and in His service!