

Good Words for Every Day of the Year,
Good Words, 1860. Editor, Norman MacLeod, DD.
Edinburgh: Alexander Strahan and Co. London: Sampson Low, Son, and Co.

November 29.

"The Lord is the portion of mine inheritance and of my cup." -- Psalm xvi. 5.

Contrast with Psalm xvi. 4, "Deliver my soul from men of the world, which have their portion in this life." May the Lord deliver us from seeking that our lot! May He deliver us even from that *tendency* to seek it which ensnares many who say that the Lord is their portion. If He be, indeed, our portion, we ought to be *satisfied*; we ought not to look round with covetous desires on those who have a meaner portion, even the things of this life. Their portion can never satisfy, ours can, and we ought more to realise this, and own it as such. Only we must strive after more knowledge of Him, closer communion with Him, and stronger faith in Him, that we may grasp our portion with a firm hand. He has created us for Himself, and created our hearts with desires which none but Himself can fill. It is in mercy to us that He permits us to feel that this world cannot satisfy, in order that He may, by the teaching of His Holy Spirit, reveal Jesus Christ in our hearts. O may He give us to know more of the excellency of our portion in Himself, that we may be less engrossed with the things of time, and may "set our affection on things above."

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"The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light." --Romans xiii. 12.

To the ungodly man this present world is *day*, and the world to come is *night* -- dark, hopeless, rayless night. To the believer, on the contrary, his life upon earth is night compared with the glory to be revealed in a future state: and the apostle directs his mind, as to an object of hope and not of fear, to the thought that "the night is *far spent*, the day is *at hand*." Let us ask ourselves, Can we look forward with glad anticipation to the "day" of which he speaks? If we are indeed "children of the light," we *shall* so look forward to it; and the expectation of that day shall be to us no unfruitful thought, but a most powerful motive to stir us up to "cast off the works of darkness, and put on the armour of light." The day when the Sun of Righteousness shall appear in glorious majesty, ought to be *more thought of* by His people; if they, indeed, love their Lord, they ought to watch for Him "more than they that watch for the morning;" and those signs of His coming which make the hearts of His enemies fail them for fear, should be to His faithful disciples the echoes of His own voice, saying to them, "Look up and lift up your heads, for your redemption draweth nigh."