

Prayers, etc

1785 - 1886

3456. dd 50

1-5

P R A Y E R S

F O R

C O N D E M N E D

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M A L E F A C T O R S.

O let the sorrowful sighing of the prisoners come before thee: according to the greatness of thy power, preserve thou those that are appointed to die. Psalm lxxix. 12.

L O N D O N:

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- 2 With Sinai's thund'rings, Lord, begin
 To rouse the sleeping slaves of sin,
 T' o'erwhelm with guilty shame;
 Put them in fear, thy wrath reveal,
 Shake o'er the opening mouth of hell,
 And scorch them with the flame.
- 3 Conviction's sharpest arrows dart,
 And pierce their adamant heart,
 Who now to falsehoods fly;
 That when their lies are swept away,
 Cut off from all resource they may
 To thee for refuge cry.
- 4 Soon as thou hear'st their contrite moan
 "Save, or eternally undone,
 We die the second death,"
 O let them call thy death to mind,
 And sinking into Tophet find
 Thy mercy's arms beneath!

III.

- 1 SAVIOUR and Friend of all mankind,
 Seize the lost sheep for whom we pray,
 Them on the brink of Tophet find,
 And take in death their sins away.
- 2 If mercy hath excepted none,
 Why may not all thy mercy prove?
 Why may not all their Saviour own,
 Dear objects of thy dying love?
- 3 Eternal death must be their doom,
 Unless the vilest may find grace;
 But in thy loving heart is room
 For Adam's whole devoted race.
- 4 Willing, and strong to save thou art;
 Life we for every soul desire;
 O let not one, not one depart
 Curst into everlasting fire.

- 5 That fire for devils was prepar'd,
 But man was made to reign with thee:
 By all-redeeming mercy spar'd,
 Let these thy heavenly kingdom see:
- 6 Mixt with the sheep on thy right-hand,
 The purchase of thy blood and prayer,
 Let these at thy tribunal stand,
 And hear their joyful sentence there!

IV.

To be used by the Malefactors.

- 1 **J**USTLY by man condemn'd to die,
 Jesus the desperate sinner's Friend,
 Out of the deep regard our cry,
 And O! let hope be in our end!
- 2 Suffering for ills which we have done,
 The martyrs' joy shall we require?
 No: but we still for mercy groan,
 And hope in final peace t' expire.
- 3 Before we gasp our latest breath,
 Before we these vile bodies leave,
 Remembering thy own precious death,
 Saviour, our parting souls forgive.
- 4 Pluck us as brands out of the flame,
 And wash'd in thy atoning blood,
 And sav'd through thy almighty name,
 Present our ransom'd souls to God.

V.

- 1 **O** Let the prisoners mournful sighs
 Come up before thy gracious throne,
 Mixt with the blood and dying cries
 Of Jesus thy beloved Son.
- 2 Father, regard his powerful prayer,
 Who, hanging on the shameful tree,
 Doth all our sins and sorrows bear
 And look—through Jesu's wounds—on me!

- 3 On us the outcasts of mankind,
 Who judge ourselves not fit to live,
 But mercy hope from thee to find,
 Through him that gasp'd in death, Forgive!
- 4 Hear him, our Advocate with thee,
 Him, and the blood of sprinkling hear:
 He pour'd out all that blood for me!
 He doth before thy throne appear!
- 5 For us He in thy presence stands,
 For us He prays the ceaseless prayer,
 Points to his side, and lifts his hands,
 And shows our names ingraven there!
- 6 Lo! on thy Son our souls we cast,
 And trusting what he asks shall be,
 And dying penitent at last,
 We leave our cause to him and thee!

VI.

- 1 **R**ETURN'D into thy kingdom, Lord,
 For good remember me,
 And tell a penitent restor'd,
 I soon shall be with thee.
- 2 The offering of a broken heart
 Thou never wilt despise,
 But while my soul and body part,
 Accept the sacrifice.
- 3 My spirit humbly I commend,
 To thy redeeming care,
 My last important moments spend
 In penitence and prayer.
- 4 And if I may not testify
 On earth my sins forgiven,
 Yet, I, the poorest outcast I
 May praise thy love in heaven.

VII.

- 1 **T**HE soul that sins, if God is true,
 Shall die the death which ne'er shall end,
 The endless death we own our due,
 Should God to hell this moment send,
 And plunge us in the burning pool,
 Long as eternal ages roll.
- 2 Poor, guilty worms what can we plead,
 What in arrest of judgment say?
 The Judge hath suffer'd in our stead,
 The Lamb hath borne our sins away,
 Justice divine is satisfied,
 And man may live, for God hath died!
- 3 The co-eternal Son of God
 Hath laid the general ransom down,
 He bought our peace with all his blood,
 And pleads his death before the throne,
 The powerful Advocate above
 Of all who trust his dying love.
- 4 How shall we in his merits trust?
 We dare not God our father own:
 Till Christ the merciful and just,
 Convince, and break our hearts of stone,
 Our hearts are harden'd from his fear,
 And countless sins our conscience fear.
- 5 Yet O! we would, we would believe:
 Thou, Lord, the double bar remove,
 The grace of true repentance give,
 And then reveal thy dying love;
 Thy love, which speaks a world forgiven,
 And lifts lost souls from hell to heaven.

VIII.

Just before their being led out to Execution.

- 1 **J**USTICE, thy summons we obey,
 And come our forfeit lives to pay,
 While God and man we justify,
 And by a righteous sentence die!

- 2 But the great God in whom we trust
Is merciful, as well as just :
And Jesu's blood for sin atones,
And will not let us die but once !
- 3 Jesus into thy hands we fall,
With our last breath for mercy call,
To thee our ransom'd spirits commend,
And hope, that heaven is in our end.
- 4 Because thou hangedst on a tree,
And didst thyself expire for me,
Me and my dying mates receive,
And bid our souls for ever live !

IX.

- 1 **A**ND let these wretched bodies die,
If thou at last receive
The souls thou didst so dearly buy,
That we with God might live :
- 2 Death as the wages of our sin,
Our just desert we claim,
But hope eternal life to win,
Through grace—and Jesu's name.
- 3 Jesus, thou all-redeeming Lord,
Remember Calvary,
And think on sinners self-abhorr'd,
Who gasp in death to thee :
- 4 And while thy mercy's utmost power
On us is magnified,
O save us at our latest hour
Who hast for felons died !

X.

- 1 **O**UR punishment accepting here
With penitent remorse ;
With bitter grief, and torturing fear,
We end our shameful course :

- 2 Set forth a spectacle to all,
The refuse of mankind ;
We on our guilty brethren call,
And leave a word behind.
- 3 Warning, ye sons of rapine take,
By our unhappy doom ;
Now, now your evil ways forsake,
And 'scape the wrath to come.
- 4 Before the righteous wrath of man,
Your careless souls surprize ;
And give you up to lasting pain,
And death that never dies.
- 5 Merciful God, to them extend,
To us thy saving grace ;
And shew thyself, the sinner's Friend,
To all our dying race :
- 6 And lo! before thy face t' appear,
We now from earth remove ,
Concluding with an act sincere
Of sorrow, faith, and love.



A W O R D

T O A

CONDEMNED MALEFACTOR.

WHAT a condition are you in? The sentence is past? You are condemned to die: and this sentence is to be executed shortly. You have no way to escape: these fetters, these walls, these gates and bars, these keepers cut off all hope. Therefore die you must: but must you die like a beast, without thinking what it is *To die?* You need not: you will not: you will think a little

first: you will consider, What is Death? It is leaving this world, these houses, lands, and all things under the sun; leaving all these things, never to return; your place will know you no more. It is leaving these pleasures; for there is no eating, drinking, gaming, no merriment in the grave. It is leaving your acquaintance, companions, friends; your father, mother, wife, children. You cannot stay with them, nor can they go with you: you must part; perhaps for ever. It is leaving a part of yourself; leaving this body which has accompanied you so long. Your soul must now drop its old companion, to rot and moulder into dust. It must enter upon a new, strange, unbodied state. It must stand naked before God!

2. But O! how will you stand before God? The great, the holy, the just, the terrible God? Is it not his own word, *Without holiness no man shall see the Lord?* No man shall see him with joy: rather he will call for the mountains to fall upon him and the rocks to cover him. And what do you think holiness is? It is purity both of heart and life. It is the mind that was in Christ, enabling us to walk as he also walked. It is the loving God with all our heart, the loving our neighbour, every man as ourselves, and the doing to all men, in every point, as we would they should do unto us. The least part of holiness is, To do good to all men, and to do no evil either in word or work. This is only the outside of it. But this is more than you have. You are far from it; far as darkness from light. You have not the mind that was in Christ: there was no pride, no malice in him: no hatred, no revenge, no furious anger, no foolish or worldly desire. You have not walked as Christ walked: No; rather as the devil would have walked, had he been in a body; the works of the devil you have done, not the works of God. You have not loved God with all your heart. You have not loved him at all. You have not thought

about him. You hardly knew or cared, Whether there was any God in the world. You have not done to others as you would they should do to you; far, very far from it. Have you done all the good you could to all men? If so, you had never come to this place. You have done evil exceedingly: your sins against God and man are more than the hairs of your head. Infomuch that even the world cannot bear you; the world itself spues you out. Even the men that know not God declare, you are not fit to live upon the earth.

3. O repent, repent! Know yourself: see and feel what a sinner you are. Think of the innumerable sins you have committed, even from your youth up. How many wicked words have you spoken? How many wicked actions have you done? Think of your inward sins! Your pride, malice, hatred, anger, revenge, lust. Think of your sinful nature, totally alienated from the life of God. How is your whole soul prone to evil, void of good, corrupt, full of all abominations! *Feel*, that your carnal mind is enmity against God. Well may the wrath of God abide upon you. He is of purer eyes than to behold iniquity: he hath said, *The soul that sinneth, it shall die. It shall die eternally, shall be punished with everlasting destruction, from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his power.*

4. How then can *you* escape the damnation of hell? The lake of fire burning with brimstone? Where the worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched? You can never redeem your own soul. You cannot atone for the sins that are past. If you could leave off sin now, and live unblameable for the time to come, that would be no atonement for what is past. Nay, if you could live like an angel for a thousand years, that would not atone for one sin. But neither can you do this: you cannot leave off sin: it has the dominion over you. If all your past sins were now to be forgiven, you would immediately sin again: that is, unless your

heart were cleansed; unless it were created anew. And who can do this? Who can bring a clean thing out of an unclean? Surely none but God. So you are utterly sinful, guilty, helpless? What can you do to be saved?

5. One thing is needful: *Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved!* Believe (not as the devils only, but) with that faith which is the gift of God; which is wrought in a poor, guilty, helpless sinner by the power of the Holy Ghost. See all thy sins on Jesus laid. God laid on him the iniquities of us all. He suffered once the just for the unjust. He bore our sins in his own body on the tree. He was wounded for thy sins; he was bruised for thy iniquities. *Behold the Lamb of God, taking away the sin of the world!* Taking away thy sins, even thine, and reconciling thee unto God the Father! *Look unto him and be thou saved!* If thou look unto him by faith, if thou cleave to him with thy whole heart, if thou receive him both to atone, to teach, and to govern thee in all things, Thou shalt be saved, thou art saved, both from the guilt, the punishment, and all the power of sin. Thou shalt have peace with God, and a peace in thy own soul, that passeth all understanding. Thy soul shall magnify the Lord, and thy spirit rejoice in God thy Saviour. The love of God shall be shed abroad in thy heart, enabling thee to trample sin under thy feet. And thou wilt then have an hope full of immortality. Thou wilt no longer be afraid to die, but rather long for the hour, having a desire to depart, and to be with Christ.

6. This is the faith that worketh by love, the way that leadeth to the kingdom. Do you earnestly desire to walk therein? Then put away all hindrances. Beware of company: at the peril of your soul, keep from those who neither know nor seek God. Your old acquaintance are no acquaintance for you, unless they too acquaint themselves with God. Let them laugh at you, or say, you are running mad. It is enough, if you have praise of

God. Beware of strong drink. Touch it not, lest you should not know when to stop. You have no need of this to cheer your spirits; but of the peace and the love of God: beware of men that pretend to shew you the way to heaven, and know it not themselves. There is no other name whereby you can be saved, but the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. And there is no other way whereby you can find the virtue of his name but by faith. Beware of Satan transformed into an angel of light, and telling you, it is presumption to believe in Christ, as *your* Lord and *your* God, your wisdom and righteousness, sanctification and redemption. Believe in him with your whole heart. Cast your whole soul upon his love. Trust him alone: love him alone: fear him alone: and cleave to him alone: till he shall say to you (as to the dying Malefactor of old) *This day shalt thou be with me in Paradise.*

F I N I S.

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