

For that purpose it is His desire to prepare us. Now there is a statement in many creeds that says that at death we are immediately made perfect in holiness. I have searched the Scripture and am unable to find any evidence for such a statement. The nearest I can find to it is the statement in Charles Hodge, that it is wonderful the bliss of those who are saved, and therefore we must be perfect in holiness. I don't think that proves anything. I incline to think that in the intermediate state God has His purposes for our Good. That we don't stand around strumming harps, but that we are to that He has purposes for us.

10 minute break

We were speaking about the purpose of life, and as I finished someone kindly pointed out to me how this is summarized in the book of Ecclesiastes where we have the man who tried every sort of human pleasure and accomplishment and found ~~it~~ out that by himself ^{itself} they did not give lasting satisfaction. Yet he says at the end, Let us hear the conclusion to the whole matter; Fear God and keep His commandments, for this is the whole duty of man. God has created us so that we may have fellowship with Him for all eternity. He wants us to hear him and keep His commandments and He wants to develop within us that character He desires - the fruit of the Spirit which He did not choose ~~not~~ to produce instantaneously, but chose rather to develop over a period of time. He put us here in order to cleanse us from sin and in order to enable us to develop these fruits. Some who seem to accomplish a great deal for the Lord actually seem to develop very little of these fruits. God may make use of them, but certainly they deserve no credit for it. ~~They deserve~~ little credit for it. He can make the wrath of ^{wicked} man to praise Him, but others may struggle a lifetime to serve Him and seem to accomplish very little, but God ^{see} knows what they accomplish and it may be much more than they realize. But He is primarily interested as far as we ourselves are concerned in our development of these fruits of the Spirit. That is the purpose of life.