ponderthescriptures.com
meditation
r. scott burton

And he arose and rebuked the wind, and said unto the sea, "Peace, be still." And there was a great calm.

dc 101.³⁷⁻³⁸— meditation

³⁷Therefore, care not for the body, neither the life of the body; but care for the soul, and for the life of the soul. ³⁸And seek the face of the Lord always, that in patience ye may possess your souls, and ye shall have eternal life.

That old philosophical question asks, "If a tree falls in the woods and no one hears it, does it make a sound?" I have wondered, "If I do not existence, is there existence?" Perhaps this suggests a certain narcissism on my part. But, I do not think that I am alone in finding it nearly impossible to contemplate non-existence! Nothingness. And so, the promise of an existence that is eternal is, for many of us, not only assuring and pleasing, but carries in it a sort of logic. How could it be otherwise?

That said, we wonder about the nature of an existence that goes on and on. And we wonder if there is anything we can do to improve the nature of eternal existence. In today's short passage, I hear two suggestions for improving life in the here and now and in the infinite beyond.

First, we prioritize those things which improve the innermost part of us, whatever we call that—here it is "soul." Even in our short lifespans with finite understanding, we see that some things do not last. Some things rot, crumble, rust, decompose, fall apart, disappear, etc. Such things deserve no more than our most cursory attention.

Second, we seek to find God and, finding him, to discover his nature. Finding and discovering Him, we seek His influence and presence in our lives. Finding Him, discovering Him, and enjoying His presence in our lives, we seek to imitate Him. In imitating Him, however imperfectly, we prepare ourselves for that existence which is eternal; an existence that is in and through God, the great Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end.

Even so, come, Lord Jesus!

(edition: October 25, 2024)