

The Bible Doctrine Of The Soul

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Holding Forth the Word of Life.

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PREFACE

THE origin of this little sketch of the Biblical conception of the soul, as first published by the author in America, was on this wise: —

One Sabbath, the writer stated to his adult Bible class that immortality, as an essential attribute of the soul is not only nowhere affirmed in the Bible, as theologians confess, but that it is in fact positively denied. Great surprise was manifested, one present even insisting that the Bible declared the soul should never die, though he could not name chapter and verse.

At the request of the class, this question was selected for discussion the next Sabbath, with the promise of studying it during the week. On assembling again, it was found that no proof of the soul's inherent immortality had been discovered, though some passages were brought forward from which it had been inferred. The writer presented a carefully selected list of references; and finally, as the whole subject seemed so new and interesting to the class, he promised another Sabbath to bring to each a written slip containing these references. But on reflection, as the class was so large, it seemed easier to print, and better to give the passages in full: and then some explanations of misunderstood passages seemed desirable; and so the work grew upon the writer's hand. And it is now presented not to his class alone, but to all earnest students of the Bible.

It is at most but a sketch. From among the multitude of proof texts on this point, the writer has endeavoured merely to present a sufficient number. And, to stimulate inquiry and remove obstacles which have hindered independent research, he has made some suggestions, rather than an elaborate argument. In these matters, which revelation alone may presume to decide, he has desired to lead the reader back to the Bible, to study for himself the teachings of that inspired guide.

If such return to the Biblical standard of our faith was demanded in Luther's day, it is likewise sadly needed at the present. In the issue for April, 1872, of a religious quarterly published at New Haven, we find a theological professor re-echoing this strange sentiment which one of our most popular preachers had uttered not long before: "No doubt we, at the present day, know more of spiritual things than did the apostles." (1) "Know more" of spiritual things than the men inspired by the Holy Ghost for the especial work of teaching these very truths!

More than Peter and John, more than Paul, who "conferred not with flesh and blood" (Galatians 1:16), but was permitted to hear "unspeakable words, which it is not lawful [literally: possible] for man to utter!" (2 Corinthians 12:4). Well may we inquire, "Whither are we drifting, if in spiritual things our religious teachers set themselves above these apostles?" In one, and but one respect, have we perhaps an advantage over them. Though Paul was "expressly" informed by the Spirit (1 Timothy 4:1; 2 Thessalonians 2.) of "perilous times in the latter days," when "some should depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits and doctrines of devils," yet we can hardly think he could have fully anticipated how prevalent and how persistent should have been that "falling away" from the faith which history has recorded of the Christian church.

We can but infer that these, claiming such pre-eminence in spiritual knowledge, must recognize that those "holy men of old" and themselves are some-what at variance as regards the truth; so that ignorance on these subjects must pertain to one party or the other, which ignorance they quietly attribute to the apostles. It is true, indeed, that the two do differ; they are divided on the deeply important question of the soul's immortality. Paul declares that immortality is given "to those who, by patient continuance in well doing, seek for it." (Romans 2:7). Our teachers assert that it is already the inalienable possession of every man!

It is time for Christians to awake, and to set themselves seriously to investigate the foundations of their belief. Especially is this called for by the notable spread of infidelity, both in Europe and America among those brought up under religious influences. We have no fears for the truth, if the Bible be but permitted to speak for itself, untrammelled by human traditions. To assist in its better understanding has been the aim of this little work.

It is an undeniable fact that Christian and unbeliever alike consider the Bible a book exceedingly difficult of comprehension; not alone in that it treats of mysteries, but from the fancied ambiguity of its language. Reading many a passage, the puzzled believer inquires: "Am I to understand this just as it is written; or has it another meaning"? But, in reality, the fault is in ourselves. Not a book but were ambiguous and contradictory, were we to serve it as we do the Bible!

Let us clearly understand this matter. We may premise that the point of perplexity is whether the language be literal or figurative. How are we to decide in any given case which it be? There is but one rule: written language must invariably be taken as literal except the fact of its being figurative be beyond all question. Departure from this rule leads, in interpretation, to endless confusion and ambiguity, while the writer, disregarding it, is ridiculed and condemned.

Now, how do we treat God's writings? A false dogma has crept into the teachings of the Church, and is unthinkingly and generally accepted. Every soul is immortal, it is taught, though the Bible says, "The soul that sins it shall die." That he may accommodate the Bible to his traditional belief, the Christian may not, as does the infidel, reject as spurious, passages in conflict with his views. But he may attain the same end: he can explain them away. He declares such passages are figurative; though, in so doing, he directly violates the fundamental law of written language. If only it be figurative, if it does not mean what it obviously says, then we are at liberty to put what construction we like upon any passage. Take, for example, the verse (John 3:16,) which Luther styled "The Gospel in Epitome": "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

The unbiased reader, coming across this for the first time, would not hesitate to understand it literally — that the believer would have perished, had not God's love granted him to live for ever. But this were to make immortality a gift, not the natural attribute of the race. So the learner must be told: "Oh, that is quite figurative; to "perish" means not to perish literally, but to live for ever in misery; while to have everlasting life is explained as living for ever in happiness!

And so in this, popular theology represents our Lord as using language so ambiguously that He cannot be understood as He means, except some third party steps in to help Him out. Away with such a mockery! Shall our Creator so poorly understand human language that He should fail to make His revealed word intelligible to common minds! Must Protestants thus uphold the Popish dogma, that God's word to men must be explained to them by the church? Nay: such a doctrine is not of God. "The secret things belong unto the Lord our God: but the things that are revealed belong to us and to our children, that we may obey all the words of this law." Deuteronomy 29:29.

Finally, the writer may be permitted to refer to the great satisfaction and comfort which he has derived from this biblical view of the soul and its destiny. In comparing his former conceptions of this and kindred truths with his present understanding of the same, he is forcibly reminded of a like contrast in the appearance of objects seen through an optical instrument out of focus, and the same when the field of vision is brought to its proper focus.

In the latter case, the previous obscurity and uncertainty of definition vanish, and every thing comes out sharp, clear, and well defined. It is his earnest prayer that thus to others the Spirit of all Truth may bless His own word, by the clearer shining of that light, to increase the gratitude and devotion of Christian hearts, and to arouse the impenitent, that they too may "lay hold on ETERNAL LIFE!"

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1. THE BIBLE DECLARES THAT ANIMALS HAVE SOULS

In the account of their creation we find this language, Genesis 1: 30: "And to every beast of the earth, and to every fowl of the air, and to every thing that creeps upon the earth, wherein there is life." (Hebrew: "nephesh chayah," living soul.) Again, Genesis 1: 20: "Let the waters bring forth the moving creature that hath life." (Hebrew: living soul).

2. MAN HAS A SOUL WHICH LIKEWISE DIES.

Genesis 2:7: "And the Lord God formed man [‘of’ supplied by our translators] the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and man became a living soul." (Hebrew: "nephesh chayah," precisely the same Hebrew words as used above of animals). St. Paul gives us his idea of "living soul," 1 Corinthians 15:45, 47: "The first man, Adam, was made a living soul. . . The first man is of the earth, earthly."

Moses explains "breath of life," by its application in Genesis 7: 21, 22: "All flesh died that moved upon the earth, both of fowl, and of cattle, and of beast, and of every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth, and every man, all in whose nostrils was the breath of life died." Ecclesiastes 3:19: "For that which befalls the sons of men befalls beasts; as the one dies, so dies the other; yea, they have all one breath." Genesis 2:17, 19: "Unto Adam, the Lord God said, In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou art and unto dust shalt thou return." Psalm, 146: 4: "His breath goes forth, he returns to his earth; in that very day his thoughts perish."

3. HUMAN SOULS VERSUS ANIMAL SOULS

Death comes alike to each. At that event, as far as this world is concerned, they stand on a level. Ecclesiastes 3:19, 20: "A man hath no pre-eminence above a beast; as the one dies, so dies the other. All are of the dust, and all turn to dust again." As saith the Psalmist: "Man that is in honour, and understands not, is like the beasts that perish." Psalm 49: 20.

*The Hebrew is "ruach" corresponding to the English word "spirit," the latter from Latin "spiro," I breathe.

Yet a Marked difference is revealed in the Bible between the life of men and that of beasts: we are to live again, they are not. Ecclesiastes 3: 21: "The spirit of man goes upward; the spirit of the beast goes downward to the earth." The spirit here is the breath of life, as in Ecclesiastes 8:8: "No man hath power over the spirit, to retain the spirit;" evidently meaning to retain the breath of life. Ecclesiastes 12: 7: "Then shall the spirit return to God who gave it." It is the vital principle, the "breath of life," as Moses called it, that returns to God the giver; not a conscious being, who can return to God only as having previously existed with Him.

When is the future life? At the Resurrection, when the good and the wicked dead will have the breath of life restored to them, and they shall be rewarded every one "as his work shall be." "Marvel not at this, for the hour is coming when all that are in the graves shall hear the voice of the Son of Man, and shall come forth, they that have done good unto the resurrection of life, and they that have done evil

unto the resurrection of damnation,” or condemnation. John 5: 28, 29. In accordance with this, Stephen when dying, prayed (Acts, 7:59): “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit” — his “breath of life,” (not his soul), that He might keep for him that life till the resurrection.

“And when he had said this, he fell asleep,” tin that promised resurrection. And so Jesus Himself on the cross said, “Father, into Thy hands I commend [Greek: commit, entrust] My spirit.” And at His resurrection the Father did give back this entrusted life to Him; as Paul affirms, Acts, 13: 30: “God raised Him from the dead.” Hebrews 8: 20: “God brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus Christ.” And Peter declares, Acts, 2: 32: “This Jesus hath God raised up:” and 1 Peter 1: 21: “God raised Him up from the dead and gave Him glory.”

This Resurrection of our Lord is both the type and the assurance of our reliving. He “who was dead and is alive” (Revelation 2: 8) saith, “Because I live, ye shall live also.” John 14: 19: “If Christ be not raised,” argues Paul, 1 Corinthians 15: 17, 18, “then they also who have fallen asleep in Christ are perished:” that is, they likewise will not be raised; and so of course they perish, for WITHOUT A RESURRECTION THE DEAD CANNOT LIVE AGAIN!

4. BIBLE DEFINITION OF THE SOUL

Passages showing the use of the word “Soul,” by different writers and speakers in the Bible.

Hear what the Lord God saith in the law of Moses, Leviticus 33: 30: “Whatsoever soul doeth any work in that same day, the same soul will I destroy from among his people.” Likewise in Numbers 15:30. Also Leviticus 5:2: “If a soul touch any carcass he shall be unclean.” So Leviticus 5: 1, 4, 15, 17, and 6: 2. Leviticus 17: 11, 12: “The blood makes atonement for the soul. No soul of you shall eat blood.” Leviticus 22:11: “But if the priest buy any soul with his money, he [as a household slave] shall eat of it” — of the holy things. What a palpable contradiction here between the language of Jehovah and our popular ideas!

To buy or sell a soul, according to the former, is to buy or sell a human being; the popular notion involves the impossible purchase of an immortal part of “mortal man!”

In Genesis 12: 13, Abraham says: “My soul shall live, because of Thee.” Genesis 19:20, Lot says: “Let me escape thither, and my soul shall live,” — otherwise, die? In Numbers 23: 10, Balaam says: “Let me [Hebrew: my soul] die the death of the righteous.” Judges 16: 30, Samson says: “Let me [Hebrew: my soul] die with the Philistines.”

In Genesis 46:26, Moses writes: “All the souls that came with Jacob into Egypt, which came out of his loins.” In Joshua 11:11, the writer tells us that the Israelites took Hazor, and “they smote all the souls that were therein with the edge of the sword, utterly destroying them.” So Joshua 10: 28, 30, 32, 35, 37, 39.

Take a few from many passages in the Psalms. Psalm 30:3: “Lord thou hast brought up my soul from the grave, Thou hast left me alive that I should not go down to the pit.” So 33:9: “To deliver their soul from deaths and to keep them alive in famine.” And 78:50: “He spared not their soul from death, but gave their life over to the pestilence.” Again, 66: 9: “Who holds our soul in life.” Also, 49:15: “God will redeem my soul from the power of the grave.”

In Isaiah 53: 12, the prophet says of Christ: “He poured out his soul unto death.” Compare now Psalm 16:10, and the same in Acts 2:27: “Thou wilt not leave my soul in hell,” that is [Hebrew: ‘Sheol’; Greek: ‘Hades’] the grave. Peter, in Acts 2: 31, tells us this was spoken of Christ, who was brought to life again, was not left in the grave; and so, that it was not spoken of David, who, Paul declares (Acts 13:36), did “see corruption”; and who, Peter tells us (Acts 2: 34), “is not ascended into the heavens.”

In Isaiah 38:17, Hezekiah, on receiving fifteen additional years of life, exclaims: “Thou hast in love to my soul delivered it from the pit of corruption,” from the grave. In Jeremiah 44:7, the Lord inquires: “Wherefore commit ye this sin against your soul [your lives, being], to cut off from you man and woman, child and suckling, out of Judah, to leave you none to remain.” Compare Numbers 16:38, where Korah and his company, consumed by fire from the Lord, are spoken of as “sinners against their own soul,” — lives. Ezekiel 18:4, 20, the Lord saith: “The soul that sins, it shall die.” In Numbers 6: 6, we read of the Nazarite: “He shall come at no dead body,” — Hebrew: “nephesh;” literally, soul. Numbers 9:6: “There were certain men who were defiled by the dead body of a man,” — literally, as above, “nephesh,” by the dead soul of a man; and so again we have “dead soul” in the Hebrew of the 7th and 10th verses.

In the New Testament, we find the same language. James speaks of “saving a soul from death” (James 5:20). Revelation 16: 3: “Every living soul died in the sea.” In Matthew 10: 28, we are told, to “Fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell,” — Greek: “Gehenna.” Man may destroy the body, but he can do no more; the life is, as we have seen, in God’s keeping; and He will restore it in the “appointed time” (Job 14: 14); yet when He finally destroys the body, and the life of that body, in Gehenna, from that fearful “second death” there is no more a resurrection!

Matthew 16:25, 26: “For whosoever shall save his life [Greek: ‘psyche’], shall lose it; and whosoever will lose his life [‘psyche’], shall find it. For what is a man profited if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul [‘psyche’], or what shall a man “give in exchange for his soul [‘psyche’]?” It looks here as if our translators wished to give this passage a shade of meaning which the original does not convey. Evidently, the close union of the two verses by the connective “for,” proves that the word, “psyche,” must refer to the same thing in each verse. As the translators use “soul” in the latter verse, and that is unquestionably a proper rendering of the Greek, we may also use it in the former. We then read: “Whosoever will save his soul [in this world] shall lose it [in the next]; and -whosoever will lose his soul for My sake shall find it.” How evidently then does this saying of the Lord Jesus contradict the popular theory, which, according to its philosophical conceptions of the soul, consistently holds that a “lost soul” in this world is a “lost soul” in the next. But when we throw aside these “oppositions of science” (1 Timothy 6:20), with their Romish traditions, and fall back upon the Bible doctrine, that losing one’s soul is losing one’s being, one’s existence, one’s life, as it must be, and is, understood in the former verse; then the whole passage is in harmony with itself and with the rest of Scripture. And then how pertinent the Saviour’s inquiry: “For what is a man profited if he should gain the whole world and lose his life?”

St. Peter, quoting Isaiah, says: “All flesh is grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of the grass: the grass withers, the flower falls away.” All the “glory of man,” must, in popular estimation, include the soul; this then, he declares, “falls away,” as the flower falls to decay.

This citation of passages may be concluded with the general statement that the Hebrew and Greek words denoting “soul” and “spirit” occur over sixteen hundred times in the Bible; “immortal soul,” or “immortal spirit” is found in the original, or in our translation, NOT ONCE, although so common in our hymn books and on our tongues!

Certainly, if we may judge from the passages we have already considered, we find that the Bible does not use the word soul as synonymous with spirit; it does not restrict the term to a rational, thinking part of man, but applies it to the entire MAN as one complete being; and it hesitates not to speak of a soul as about to die, as dying, and as dead, as well as living. Beyond all question then, we find, that the Scriptural conception of a soul, and the usage of the word in all Bible history, far from being identical, IS TOTALLY AT VARIANCE WITH THAT OF OUR POPULAR THEOLOGY!

5. IMMORTALITY PROOF TEXTS

Passages in the Bible from which the existence of a Soul, apart from the Body, has been Inferred.

1. Genesis 35:18: “As her soul was in departing,” literal Hebrew: in the going out of her soul or life.

2.1 Kings 17:21: “Let this child’s soul come into him again,” or let his life as our translators so often render the Hebrew word. So, Luke 12:20: “This night thy soul shall be required of thee.”

3. Luke 23: 43: “Verily I say unto thee, to-day shalt thou be with me in Paradise.” Spoken by Christ on the cross to the penitent thief. Here, apparently, the inference is a fair one ; but look more closely. What did the thief request? “Lord, remember me when thou comes IN [not ‘into,’ as in our translation: the Greek is not ‘eis’ but ‘en,’ in] Thy kingdom.” Now what is the reply? That will depend entirely on the position of the comma. Observe that the Greek text was originally written without punctuation, which was introduced by Manutius, a painter of Venice, in the fifteenth century, and in one instance (Matthew 19: 29) has been changed by the Bible Society within a recent period. Where, in this passage, then, is the true place of the comma? In the Septuagint and Greek New Testament, the adverb “today” (“semeron”), qualifies the following verb 51 times, and the preceding verb 170 times.

Then, as in Deuteronomy 8:19: “I testify against you this day, that ye shall perish,” so here, according to the prevalent usage, we read, and the context demands it as a direct reply to the thief’s petition: “Verily, I say unto you this day, thou shalt be with Me in Paradise.” Besides, if it be assumed that Christ and the thief were that day together in Paradise, then we learn that henceforth in Paradise Christ is present in no other sense than He is now on earth. For when, on that assumption. He came back from Paradise to Earth at His resurrection, He told Mary Magdalene (John 20:17) that He had not yet ascended to the Father; but the Father is in heaven, therefore Paradise, where we suppose Him to have been, is not heaven; afterward He did ascend to the Father, and is now in heaven (Hebrews 9:24), consequently not in that hypothetical Paradise. No! The promise was for that yet future time to which the thief referred, when Christ shall come “in His kingdom,” and Paradise, with its tree of Life (Revelation 22: 2), shall be restored to us.

4. Luke 16: 19, 31. The story of Dives and Lazarus. Here again, through our un-Biblical conception of the soul, have we been misled. This is a parable, and is introduced by the statement, “There was a certain man,” etc., precisely as are its neighbouring parables. Its scene is laid not in hell, but in the grave (the Greek is “Hades,” not “Gehenna”). It was spoken to the rich Pharisees, who (verse 14, same chapter) “were covetous, and they derided Him.” It declares that, though they are of the seed of Abraham, they are not his acknowledged children (see Romans 9:6, 7): audit presents this solemn truth to them in the then well-known imagery of Isaiah 14: 9-15, where those in the grave, as it were in a vast catacomb, are poetically represented as rising to meet the king of Babylon, coming to take his place among them “in the sides of the pit.” See also same figure, Ezekiel, chapters 31-32. If not a

parable — if, on the other hand, a literal narrative of a transaction— on this supposition we are reduced to the absurdity of taking pious, disembodied spirits to Abraham’s bosom, not to Christ; of making these disembodied spirits still to have parts of a body as a bosom, finger, tongue, etc.; and above all, of making Christ flatly contradict the Scriptures of the Old Testament (which, John 5: 39, He directs us to search), in such passages as Job 14: 21, referring to the dead: “His sons come to honour and he knows it not; and they are brought low, but he perceives it not of them.” Ecclesiastes 9:5, 6, 10: “The dead know not anything. Also their love and their hatred and their envy is now perished. For there is no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom, in the grave, whither thou goes.” Aye, Christ Himself, echoing the words of the Preacher, declares: “The night cometh when no man can work.” John 11:10: 4. See similar statement in Psalms 6:5; 31:17; 88:10-12; 146:4.

5. Matthew 17:3: “And behold, there appeared unto them Moses and Elias talking with Him,” with Jesus, at the transfiguration.

From this is inferred the present existence of Moses and Elijah as disembodied spirits. But the transfiguration scene was a representation, a prefiguration of the yet future glorious coming and kingdom of the Messiah; as we learn from the verse which precedes this account in each Evangelist: “There be some standing here who shall not taste of death till they see the kingdom of God;” and also from 2 Peter 1:16: “When we made known unto you the power and COMING of our Lord Jesus Christy we were eye witnesses of His majesty,” etc. At the time of Christ’s coming, thus foreshadowed, Moses and Elijah, and all saints, will have their glorious resurrection bodies, “made like unto His glorious body.” Philippians 3:21. So we are informed did these two actually appear at this time. (See account in Luke 9:31: “who appeared in glory;” and compare Colossians 3:4: “when Christ, who is our life, shall appear then shall ye also appear with Him in glory.”)

But though we may suppose that Elijah at his translation received his spiritual body, and was changed in a moment, as will be those remaining alive at our Lord’s coming, yet Moses did see death, and at this time was sleeping with his fathers, as the Lord had said, Deuteronomy 31: 14, 15. We cannot believe him at this time to have been raised from the dead, and to have received his resurrection body, unless we are prepared to contradict Paul’s repeated statements that Christ was “the first that should rise from the dead” (Acts 26: 23): that “Christ is the first fruits of them that slept” (1 Corinthians 15: 23): that “He is the first born from the dead” (Colossians 1:18): and, also, John’s statement, that He “is the first begotten of the dead” (Revelation 1:5.) Is it not simpler to accept Christ’s own explanation when He calls the whole scene a vision (Matthew 19:9)? Using the word as in Acts 12: 9, where Luke tells us that Peter, who saw a real angel, and was by him really liberated from prison, “wist not it was true [real] which was done by the angel, but thought he saw a vision.”

6. So, Revelation 6: 9: “I saw under the altar the souls of them that were slain” — seen likewise by John in symbolic vision. The word “soul” here, and also in Revelation 16:3, 20:4, is plainly used in the sense already sufficiently shown to be the Biblical.

7.1 Thessalonians 5: 23: “And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless, unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

This passage is often thoughtlessly quoted to prove the popular theory — that man is composed of a soul, a spiritual essence, and its material inclosure, the body. But the passage proves too much for that.

This precise enumeration of parts, which agrees a distinction between soul and body, agrees a like distinction between soul and spirit, which two are identical in the popular theology. In fact, on the common view, the Apostle’s threefold division here is either an unmeaning repetition of words, or it is simply incomprehensible. Now let us see if, on the Bible view of the soul, we cannot grasp the Apostle’s meaning: “May the very God of peace,” he says, “sanctify you wholly; and” — the exact Greek is — “may the whole of you, the spirit, and the soul, and the body, be preserved blameless in (the original is not ‘unto’ but in) the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.” Paul prays for the complete blamelessness, in that day, of the entire being of each; the spirit, the animating breath of life, — the soul, the organization, capable of being endowed with life and performing its functions, — the body, the material elements, which, ever changing, still by their orderly arrangement go to make up the organization: all, not excepting the body, in the estimation of the Apostle, essential to the very existence of the individual and to the future reward of each.

8. 2 Corinthians 5: 1-8; “We in this tabernacle are willing to be absent from the body,” etc. What is this tabernacle? Not the mortal body, as a shell encompassing an immortal something: such is not the language of the Bible: it is the earth, on which as strangers and pilgrims, we live, dwelling as in a tabernacle, a tent, not in a permanent home. As if to strangle the very conception of a disembodied state, Paul in this very passage declares: “Not that we would be unclothed, but clothed upon, that mortality might be swallowed up of life,” as (see 1 Corinthians 15:54,) it will be at the resurrection. And he is willing, he longs — what Christian does not? — to be absent from this body, with its weariness and its pain, and to be clothed upon with his “spiritual body,” with which he will “ever be with the Lord.” 1 Thessalonians 5:17.

9. Philippians 1: 23: “For I am in a strait betwixt two, having a desire to depart and to be with Christ, which is far better.”

Not an exact translation from the Greek; and the “for” is strangely transposed. Literally it is, “And I am hard pressed indeed by the two [whether to live or die]; having THE EARNEST DESIRE for the departing and the being with Christ, for this is very much better.” An old man, alone in his prison at Rome, he tells us whether to live or die he is hard pressed which to choose, since he is sure he will magnify Christ in either case (verses 20, and 22). It cannot be that in the next breath he will contradict himself and say that he does well know which he chooses — that his earnest desire (Greek: “epithumian” elsewhere translated lust) is to die!

And yet there is that he would choose, if he might have to — what? To depart and be with Christ. When may that be? It is when we are “not unclothed, but clothed upon;” when “we are all changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump;” “when mortality is swallowed up of life.” Ah! For that he and we all have “the earnest desire!” “The whole creation [every creature] groans and travails together in pain until now, waiting for the manifestation of the sons of God.” Romans 8: 22, 19.

A clause of the 21st verse of the same chapter — “to die is gain” — is often somewhat unfairly taken out of its connexion, and then appealed to sustain the popular misunderstanding of this 23rd verse. But did the Apostle mean to say that to die was gain for himself? Ah, Paul was not one thus to speak! The preceding verse, to which this one in fact belongs, makes clear his meaning. Hear him: “My earnest expectation and my hope, that, as always so now also, Christ shall be magnified in my body, whether it be by life, or by death. For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.” To him to live is Christ — is manifesting Christ: to die — he cannot say that dying, losing existence, enables him still to manifest Christ — but no matter, it is gain to the Master he loves; for by his death, as by his life, that Saviour shall be magnified. His shall be the gain!

10. Luke 20:37, 38: “Now that the dead are raised even Moses showed at the bush, when he calls the Lord the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob; for He is not a God of the dead, but of the living; for all live unto Him.”

Our modern commentators say that this proves that Abraham and the patriarchs are now living, of course, in a disembodied state. Indeed, then the argument would not have ended there; for the Sadducees might have well retorted; “The fact you have proved, that they are now living, by no means proves that they will be raised from the dead; that is another point and the one at issue; prove it if you can!” Revelation J. C. Ryle quite artlessly thus comments: “The quotation contained in this passage has occasioned much controversy. At first sight, it does not appear to be any proof of a resurrection; but only of a life to come.”

And, truly, that is all it is, if the popular theory of disembodied spirits be true. He goes on to say: “One thing is very clear, the argument which our Lord used completely silenced the Sadducees, and called forth the approbation of the Scribes.” And then he adds, in substance: Yet we are not convinced, the fault must be in ourselves; we ought to be convinced, though we cannot see why! No doubt we ought! And to one free from the popular delusion, the proof of a resurrection is there, convincingly enough. We need not suppose our Lord so ill-judging, or the wily Sadducees and Pharisees so stupid, as not to know what was or was not proof of a disputed point. Christ’s argument is unanswerable; but it is so by virtue of a Biblical premise, which popular theology has lost sight of; viz: THERE IS NO LIFE FOR THE DEAD WITHOUT A RESURRECTION! The argument, then, is this: —

God’s words at the bush prove a life for dead patriarchs:

But there is no life for the dead without a resurrection:

* Expository Thoughts on the Gospel.

Therefore there must be a resurrection: which was to be proved.

In this connection, as Paul’s comment on the passage, “all live unto Him,” read from Romans 4:17: “God quickens [makes alive] the dead, and calls those things which be not as though they were.”

11. One passage more, 1 Peter 3: 19, 20: “He went and preached unto the spirits in prison, when once the long suffering of God waited in the days of Noah,” etc. What does this mean? Where commentators have so differed, shall the writer venture an opinion? To an ordinary reader of the Bible it appears very simple. “Went and preached” is simply “preached” as in Deuteronomy 31: 1: “And Moses went and spake [simply, spake] these words unto all Israel.” So in Ephesians 2:17: “He [Jesus] came and preached peace to you.” He did not come to Ephesus except by His ministers— through them He “preached.” The whole passage seems the simple announcement of the fact that the spirits in prison, those who are now represented in the Bible $\epsilon\iota\varsigma$ in the land of darkness, of silence, of unconsciousness, did have the gospel of deliverance, through the coming Lamb of God, preached to them by Noah, when, in the days of that “preacher of righteousness” (2 Peter 2: 5), they were alive and on earth.

Thus have we now examined all the more important passages whence is drawn at best but the inference of man’s inherent immortality. Strange indeed, if in a revelation of the Creator’s will, so important a doctrine should be left to inference, and never once explicitly stated. How much stranger still, when we learn the unsubstantial basis upon which these inferences rest, and the inconsistencies they involve, if legitimately followed out!

Notice again the passage which of all others is invariably brought up as if to settle all controversy, the promise of Christ to the thief on the cross. The inference hence derived depends entirely upon whether the adverb “today” shall be taken to qualify the verb which precedes, or that which follows it. We must first depart from the common grammatical connection, if we would educe the inference of man’s separate spiritual existence; and in so doing, we found our selves inevitably brought to the logical conclusion that Christ, whose presence makes Paradise, is not in Paradise! And so in other passages, apart from the contradictions and absurdities it involves, we observe that the inference in reality grows out of a precedent belief in the doctrine; in other words, that the inference is built upon the doctrine, not the doctrine upon the inference which had been supposed to support it.

6. IMMORTALITY DEFINED IN THE BIBLE

All the passages in the Bible “Where Immortality is verbally expressed, and to whom it appertains. 1 Timothy 1:17: “The King eternal, immortal, invisible.”

1 Timothy 6:16: “Who only hath immortality.”

2 Timothy 1:10: “Jesus Christ, who hath brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.”

Romans 2:7: “To them, who by patient continuance in well-doing seek for honour, and glory, and immortality, [God will render] eternal life.”

1 Corinthians 15: 53, 54, 57: “For this corruptible must put on in-corruption, and this mortal must PUT ON immortality. So when this corruptible shall have put on in-corruption and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written. Death is swallowed up in victory. Thanks be to God who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.”

Here at last is the well-defined Bible statement of immortality. Claimed by the proud philosophers of this world, as the inalienable possession of the whole human family, it is by the Divine Giver restricted to those who, by patient continuance in well-doing, seek for it; and by them received as a gift: it is not to be “put on” until the day when they are invested with the spiritual body, and mortality is swallowed up of life! A future immortality is thus plainly declared to be the special portion of the righteous.

7. OLD AND NEW TESTAMENT TESTIMONY

Is this Immortality of the righteous revealed in the Old Testament as well as in the New?

Certainly it is; and as such, inseparably associated with the resurrection. Daniel 12: 2: “And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake; some to everlasting life, some to shame and everlasting contempt.” Ezekiel 37:12: “Thus saith the Lord God, Behold, my people, I will open your graves, and cause you to come up out of your graves. Isaiah 26: 19: “Thy dead men shall live, together with my dead body shall they arise. Awake and sing, ye that dwell in dust; for thy dew is as the dew of herbs, and the earth shall cast out the dead.” Chapter 15: 3: “Hear, and your soul shall live; and I will make an everlasting covenant with you.” Psalm 17:15: “I shall be satisfied when I awake with Thy likeness.” Job 14:14, 15: “If a man die, shall he live again? All the days of my appointed time will I wait till my change come. Thou shalt call and I will answer Thee.” A future re-living is assumed in the covenant with Abraham, Genesis 13:17: “I will give it [the land] unto thee.” This promise, it will be observed, is distinct from the promise to his posterity, in Genesis 15:18, 21, where the precise limits of their future possession are defined by the enumeration of the tribes then holding it.

And farther back still, in the story of the Fall itself, is enapt the promise of future immortality, in the announcement of the deliverer, the Seed of the woman, who should bruise (crush) the serpent’s head, and in the cherubim and the sword of flame, Jehovah’s symbol, which kept [preserved, guarded] the way of the Tree of Life! It is easy to understand how that, in the years before the Deluge, while Paradise, lost to the race yet kept for them, still remained, it must have been a constant reminder of that future life in which the lost Paradise should be regained through- the coming deliverer. And after the Flood, the truths connected with that sacred spot, traditionally handed down through the family of Noah, are still evidenced in the sacred tree of the Assyrians, and the cherubic forms of Assyria and Egypt.

A belief in the necessity of the resurrection to a future life, which was, as we have seen, the basis of Christ’s argument with the Sadducees, is recognized in the importance the Egyptians attached to embalming the dead, who, as they believed, were one day to be re-called to life. Every Egyptian mummy is a silent witness for our times of that ancient Bible doctrine, — “No future life without a resurrection.” It is interesting to observe in the early religious belief of this most ancient of peoples, how much of originally revealed truths is preserved, even in the midst of so much corruption. We quote from a standard authority on these subjects: “Although all bodies were to descend into the lower world, they were not, however, all assured of resurrection. To obtain this, it was necessary never to have committed any great sin either in act or thought. The deceased was to be judged by Osiris and his forty-two assessors: on this judgment depended the irrevocable lot of the soul. If the deceased was convicted of inexcusable faults, he was decapitated by Horus or

the nemma, or block, of Hades. Annihilation was believed by the Egyptians to be the punishment reserved for the wicked.” [Ancient History of the East, by Lenormant and Chavallier.]

From this ancient country, arts and literature were brought to the Greeks; and we may readily perceive “why their philosophers were led to drop the old truthful restriction of future life to the good alone, and proclaim it for all; since such a doctrine is more flattering to man’s pride, while it the better enabled the priests to control the masses. But sad it is to see how early this worldly philosophy invaded the churches, notwithstanding God’s warning against oppositions of science falsely so called” (1 Timothy 6:20), until at last the Church as a body, came fully to accept as true the serpent’s lie, “Ye shall not surely die;” that is, “Ye are immortals!”

Let it not be thought, however, that .during all these centuries there have not been a faithful few to protest against this error; but their voices have been lost in the shouts of the multitude; or, perchance, smothered in the fires of persecution. Witness the following reply to the Romanist, Sir Thomas More, by William Tyndale, that old English translator and student of the Bible, who for his opinions was burned at the stake in 1536. He says: “In putting departed souls in heaven, hell, and purgatory, you destroy the arguments wherewith Christ and Paul prove the resurrection. What God doth with them, that shall we know when we come to them. The true faith puts the resurrection which we be warned to look for every hour. The heathen philosophers, denying that, did put that souls did ever live. And the Pope joins the spiritual doctrine of Christ, and the fleshly doctrine of philosophers together — things so contrary that they cannot agree. And because the fleshly minded Pope consents unto heathen doctrine, therefore he corrupts the Scriptures to establish it. If the souls be in Heaven, tell me why they be not in as good case as the angels be, and then what cause is there of the resurrection?”

Immortality for the righteous alone is the truth originally revealed to the race. Is it not time for the church to return to the good old paths?

8. THE FUTURE OF THE WICKED

What the Bible teaches as to the Portion of the Wicked in the Future.

Refusing to receive the gift of life through Christ, they inevitably retain their mortal nature; and so of such we read, Ezekiel 18: 20: “The soul that sins, it shall die” referring to the Second Death, the penalty of one’s own sin. James 1: 15: “Sin, when it is finished, brings forth death.” Philippians 3: 18, 19: “Many walk of whom I have told you often, and tell you now, even weeping; whose end is destruction.”

Acts 3: 23: “Every soul, who will not hear that prophet, shall be destroyed from among the people.” Matthew 10: 28: “Fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell” — “Gehenna.” Psalm 37:10: “For yet a little while and the wicked shall not be.” 2 Peter 2: 2: “They shall utterly perish.” Malach 4: 1, 3: “For behold the day cometh that shall bum as an oven; and all the proud, yea, and all that do wickedly, shall be stubble; and the day that Cometh shall bum them up saith the Lord of Hosts, that it shall leave them neither root nor branch. And they [the wicked] shall be ashes under the soles of your feet, in the day that I shall do this, saith the Lord of Hosts.” Matthew 13: 38, 40: “The tares are the children of the wicked one. As, therefore, the tares are gathered and burned in the fire: so shall it be in the end of the world.” 2 Thessalonians 1: 9: “They shall be punished with everlasting destruction,” — an everlasting punishment.

It is objected by some that the expression “everlasting punishment” (Matthew 25: 46) must involve the eternal existence of the punished, so that they may be eternally tormented; that a punishment cannot be everlasting unless everlastingly felt by a conscious object. But the fallacy of this is most apparent. What is the punishment? Death — the loss of life. Is this loss, which is the punishment, everlasting? It is. Then plainly the punishment is everlasting, and the point is granted. No question of this kind would ever arise, but for our un-Biblical conception of the meaning of the word “soul.” An eternal punishment is not necessarily eternally punishing any more than “eternal judgment” (Hebrews 6: 2) is eternally judging, or “eternal redemption” (Hebrews 9:12) is eternally redeeming. From the death to which, as the result of Adam’s sin, all are liable, there is a resurrection; from the second death, which is the consequence of our own sin, there is no resurrection — it is an “everlasting destruction,” as the apostle styles it.

The term “unquenchable fire,” Matthew 3: 12: “He will bum up the chaff with unquenchable fire,” is thought to contradict the idea of a literal destruction; but it confirms it. In common language, we call that fire unquenchable which could not be put out till it had wholly destroyed the object of its fury For example, an isolated wooden building takes fire. You afterward inquire, “Was the fire put out?” “No,” is the reply, “we were unable to put it out.” You then understand, not that the fire is still burning, but simply, that being unquenchable, it did not cease till the building was utterly consumed. So in the language of the Bible, Jeremiah 17:27: “I will kindle a fire in the gates thereof, and it shall devour the palaces of Jerusalem, and it shall not be quenched.” This was fulfilled as (Lamentations 4:2) the same prophet testifies: “The Lord hath kindled a fire in Zion, and it hath devoured the foundations thereof:” yet that fire, though it was unquenchable, is not still burning. So of the expression, “the worm never dies, and the fire is not quenched,” Mark 9:44.

The worm dies not, and the fire is not quenched before it completes its work. And upon whom does the worm and the fire feed? Compare Isaiah 66: 24, whence the illustration is taken: "And they shall go forth and look upon the carcasses of the men that have sinned against me, for their worm shall not die, neither shall their fire be quenched."

Much is made of the language of Revelation 14:11: "The smoke of their torment ascends up for ever and ever." It is hardly worth while to argue with one who permits the figurative imagery of this highly symbolic book to over-ride the plain language of other parts of Scripture. Let such a one read Isaiah 34:10, whence no doubt is borrowed the figure of the passage in Revelation. The prophet, speaking of the Lord's judgments upon the land of Idumea, declares, "It shall not be quenched night or day; the smoke shall go up for ever." No traveller, now-a-days, finds in the present condition of ancient Idumea an exact fulfilment of Isaiah's poetic prediction. Desolate indeed is that land; totally ruined are its cities; but they are not sending up now the smoke of their burning. And yet the poet-seer is not found a false prophet. The doom which, in the highly-wrought language of poetry, he foretold, has indeed over-taken those proud cities. In plainer prose, it was, it is, unending destruction.

Again it is claimed by the advocates of eternal torment, that, whenever the death of the soul is spoken of, it must be taken figuratively, because, say they, the soul cannot die; therefore, when the Bible says it does die, when it threatens death to the soul as the penalty of sin, it must mean not death, but eternal life in misery. But such forget, what we have already noted, how often the word of God speaks of the death of souls by the sword or other violence, using the word or idea of death, beyond question, in its literal sense, as the cessation of existence. See, already quoted. Joshua 10:28-39; 11:11. It is very easy to bring forward a lengthy list of examples of the figurative use of the words "death," "destroy," and the like: then to infer a like figurative use when the punishment of the wicked is announced; but such arguing proves nothing. No one questions but that these and kindred words are at times so used; but when so used, that fact is, and must be made, most apparent, else the reader is hopelessly confused by the ambiguity of the language. In such cases either the individual spoken of is recognized as being alive, or some qualifying phrase is added, as "dead in trespasses and sins."

Besides, the terms of a law is the last place in which to look for figurative language. Words there can only be used in their primary, literal meaning. If death is threatened, death in its primary sense is meant, the cessation of existence. This rule of human jurisprudence admits of no departure there from. Are we to believe the Judge of all the earth less explicit in stating His laws? No! We must interpret the legal documents of the Bible as we do all others: their language is to be taken in its strictest literal sense, unless there can be no question but that it is figurative."

9. SUMMARY OF THIS BIBLICAL DOCTRINE

From the Preceding Investigations we Obtain the following Results:

We learn that in the Bible, our only standard of truth in these matters, the word SOUL is used to denote a material organized being; and though generally used of such when endowed with vitality, it is also used of the same when life has departed. The Bible uses the word soul, then, in its primary meaning, to denote a material organization: that is, it denotes matter organized so as to be susceptible of life. The Bible applies the term equally to men and to animals, and the existence of such beings depends upon the integrity of this organization. Hence the term is also used in the abstract to denote the vitality or life-principle itself of such living beings. To repeat: the word "soul," in the Bible, means primarily the animal organization; as a secondary meaning, we find it denotes, not infrequently, the life of all earthly creatures.

The fact is explicitly stated that such beings are formed of material elements, and no account whatever is found in the Biblical writings of anything beyond this entering into their composition. The language of the inspired apostle, in 1 Corinthians 15:45, 47, is most decisive on this point. He states: "The first man, Adam, was made a living soul," Greek: "psyche."

Then he describes this first man (in the Greek) as being *psuchikon*, which we may translate *psuchicaly* or, to coin a corresponding English word, *soulical*. And this so designated "soulical" being he declares is "ek ges" of earth, earthly! If this be materialism, so let it be. It is the materialism of the Bible, and rests upon an authority which man cannot assail. "Let the potsherd strive with the potsherd of the earth; woe to him that strives with his Maker! Shall the clay say to Him that fashioned it, what makes thou?" Isaiah 45:19.

Man, a living soul of such a nature, does not then possess immortality by his creation. It can be his, only as a special gift from his Maker. As a consequence of Adam's sin (1 Corinthians 15: 22), being begotten in his image (Genesis 5: 3), he dies the first death, and ceasing to exist, "in that very day his thoughts perish." Psalm 146: 4. But the Creator keeps for him his life in His remembrance, and at His "appointed time" restores that life at the resurrection, raising him up again with his old emotions, habits of thought, and history, in fact the same individual as before. Then, the question, whether he shall have eternal life or not, is forever decided according to the deeds already done in the body. Those whose names are found written in the book of life, who have in this world accepted the gift of God, eternal life then "put on immortality," and live forever with their Redeemer. Those who have rejected the same free gift, who have chosen in this world of probation to live as brutes, shall perish as such; they will suffer the capital punishment of God's tribunal, the second or eternal death, attended with such degrees of pain as, apart from the recognition of their own folly, a wise and holy God may see fit to inflict.

Is this the belief laid down for us in the Bible? Each one must judge for himself. The writer, with a conviction deepening with continued investigation, claims that it is. Is it the belief of Christendom generally? No, indeed. Why not? Because that Satan, the prince of this present world, has for centuries blinded the eyes of the Church to the truth. How sad to recognize from the letters of our departed Saviour to the Seven Churches (Revelation chapters 2 and 3.), that ere the last of the Apostles was called to his rest, Satan had already begun to corrupt the truth he could not destroy. Nor did his malign influence then cease.

Let any one read of the Christian dissensions on points of doctrine in the subsequent centuries; of the sad conformity to the world, the cringing to its philosophers and potentates; of the fierce discussions of the great Christian councils, and of decrees obtained by finesse and force, rather than by moral means; of the ever advancing corruption of the Romish Church, and the almost eclipse of truth during the dark ages: all show the fearful power of the evil one. To be sure, Luther brought back to the Church the cardinal truth, "the just shall live by faith," rather than by works; but was that great reformation an entire casting out of error from that portion of the Church it reached? Even the great reformer himself, so strong is the force of early belief, could never emancipate himself from the error of transubstantiation.

Is there not still left in the Church that underlying error, derived from the philosophy of this world, of a natural immortality for all? And to this dogma is not our interpretation of the Bible itself made to bend! This is the question before us; a question to be decided not by tradition, not by submitting to any human authority, however unexceptionable, but by a prayerful, independent study of the volume of God's revealed will.

10. BENEFICIAL RESULTS OF THIS DOCTRINE

Granting that the Bible teaches the mortal nature and death of Souls, except as Christ redeems the Righteous, what advantage has this over the popular belief?

If we have recognized the fact that the Bible teaches it, that itself is answer enough. But to specify in detail:

1. It exalts the character of God. It exalts His power in that sin will not be eternal. God will obtain a final victory over it, and root it from His dominions. Christ will "destroy the works of the devil:" not as "upholding all things by the word of His power," will He perpetuate the devil's work through the coming ages.

It exalts the justice of God. Few thinking men, now-a-days, will be found sufficiently venturesome to argue for eternal torment on any basis of justice. The sins of a finite life, which is but a moment to eternity, cannot deserve infinite, because unending, torture. And certainly such excess of punishment cannot be passed over to the account of the future as a retribution for sins then occurring; for, in that hypothetical hell, the wicked can do nothing hut sin.

Besides, Scripture declares that the future punishment is for "the deeds done in the body." 2 Corinthians 5: 10.

It exalts the love of our Father, God. Not willing (wishing) that any should perish, He offers to all eternal life through His crucified Son. Those who reject such free love shall for ever lose their life in such a manner as shall best express God's abhorrence of sin; but our merciful God will not keep them in being to torment them for ever.

It exalts the great work of our Redeemer to His redeemed as they learn that their very existence to air eternity, they will owe to His dying love.

2. It exalts the Bible in our estimation. It renders it more readily intelligible and consistent with itself, and it thus enhances the pleasure and profit of studying it. By the common method of interpretation, the reader is surprised to find that many parts of the Bible are not written in the language of common life. For example. Genesis 3:17, 19: "Because thou [the man, not the passive, body] had done this, in the sweat of thy brow shalt thou [the man] eat bread, till thou [the body] return unto the ground," or in ordinary language it should be expressed, "till not thou, but thy body returns to the ground." We hardly believe that, in any language, the pronoun "thou" in the same sentence can be addressed to two radically different things!

Again, as commonly interpreted, it is very strange that Christ and His apostles speak of our future destiny in terms, to say the least, so confusing. That our Saviour, in His conversations with common people in John's gospel, should designate the future eternal life of the wicked as death, at the very time He was using the word "death" also in its ordinary acceptation, is an enigma. Formerly in careful study as a Sabbath School superintendent with his teachers, the writer could then only explain it by supposing that Christ purposely spoke ambiguously that there might be more occasion for the exercise of pure faith.

And again, on the current view, it is strange that Christ should refer so exclusively to the resurrection as the time of reward, and that the theme of the Apostles should be Jesus and the Resurrection; since the latter is a comparatively insignificant matter, if departed saints are already in glory. These difficulties, and others like them, which many a thinking mind has felt, disappear if, freed from the trammels of a religions training, we take the words of inspiration according to their literal signification.

It should be noted that sometimes the ambiguity is not found in the original text, but is caused by the translators' choice of words. May it be hinted that perhaps these good men thought it their duty to make, if possible, the Bible teach those theological views they thought it ought. For instance in John 11:26, Jesus says, "He that lives and believes on me shall never die." But the believer does die: he, no more than any other, is exempt from the first death.

It must mean then, you reason, the second death; but why did not Christ say which He referred to? He did! The Greek is "ou me apotbane," he shall not, not [two negatives, in Greek more emphatic] die — "eis ton aiona," to the aeon, to eternity; i.e. literally, "the believer shall not indeed die eternally. So John 8:51, translated "he shall never see death, is "he shall not indeed see death to eternity," he shall not see the eternal death.

It seems a duty to call special attention to the no doubt well meant, but unjustifiable, efforts of King James' translators to make their version teach the doctrine that man has a soul which animals have not. The Hebrew word, "nephesh" (soul), when referring to man, they were willing to translate literally; but when the same is used of animals, that fact they must by all means cover up by substituting some other word. We have seen that the Hebrew "living soul," Genesis 2:7, since it is applied to man, is given literally; but for the same Hebrew words, in Genesis 1:20 and 30, where animals are spoken of, we have the English word "life." Observe, further, that for the same Hebrew in Genesis 1:21, 24; 2:19, we have instead "living creatures." We have noted that for "dead soul" in the Hebrew of Numbers 6: 6; 9:6, 7, 10, the translators have substituted "dead body." In Leviticus 11: 10, we read, "all that have not fins and scales in the seas, and in the rivers, of all that move in the waters, and of any living thing which is in the waters: here "living thing" is given us for "living soul." Once indeed in the Old Testament, the translators seem unable to avoid using the word "soul" in its Biblical application to beasts. We read, Numbers 31:28, as the Lord's tribute of the booty taken in battle: "One soul of five hundred, both of the persons, and of the beeves, and of the asses, and of the sheep." And once in the New, we have: "Every living soul died in the sea."

Look at this fact: Six times in the first and second chapters of Genesis does the Hebrew "living soul" occur; once it refers to man, and it is then expressed in our version; five times it refers to animals of all kinds, and that fact is carefully concealed from the English reader. Such artifice may be overlooked in men trained to believe the Popish maxim, "The end justifies the means." But it were inexcusable now, and it is to be hoped that the promised new revision will have the courage to give us the literal truth.

One who has not given the subject attention can hardly realize how great confusion of thought and language is encountered in the endeavour to reconcile the doctrine of inherent immortality with the plain statements of the Bible. For example, study the bearing of this doctrine upon the accepted theory of death. Let us analyse the view it presents of the first and of the second death.

The two deaths, you would say, should certainly resemble each other. Two things of the same name, and designated the first, the second, ought to be enough alike to belong to the same class. Now how much resemblance is there on the common theory?

According to that, "the first death" of a wicked man is not to him a cessation of existence, although that is the primary meaning of the word death, and the idea involved in all its secondary meanings, as given by Webster: it is the separation, the tearing asunder, of two parts of his complex being. As a result of this, one part decays, loses its organization, and so ceases to exist: the other part continues to exist in unspeakable torment. At last comes the resurrection, when that part, which passed out of existence, is again brought into being, and the suffering part is united to it. But nor do we understand that the body, which is all that has a resurrection on this theory, can be brought into being at such a time? It is not imperishable; it could not endure the unending torture before it. This hypothesis then must suppose that it also is changed and made immortal, like the bodies of the righteous, although no warrant in Scripture is found for this, and that the change for the righteous, the putting on of immortality, their bodies made "like unto His glorious body," is spoken of as "the gift of God through our Lord Jesus Christ." 1 Corinthians 15: 54, 57. Does He indeed bestow the same gift upon the wicked!

But if we accept this unwarranted supposition, what then? The two parts re-united appear before the judgment seat: they or the individual is judged according to the deeds of the life on earth: the verdict of condemnation is pronounced; and the second death is now inflicted. 2 Corinthians 5:10; Revelation 20:11-15; 21: 8. Now does this second death resemble the first? Not at all: the two parts of the man are not torn asunder again; but, on the contrary, joined together they are cast into that torment which, on this theory, one part has long been enduring without even the formality of a trial. We might stop here and enquire what the need of the judgment on a question already irrevocably decided? And what this apparently needless restoring of the body?

But the point is this: when comparing the first with the second death, we find no analogy whatever between the act of tearing asunder two parts of a being, and the act of casting into torment the two re-united. And, to these two entirely different processes, are we to believe that the word of God applies the same term, and, as if the latter were a repetition of the former, even designates them, number one, number two? Surely, we cannot attribute such inconsistency of language to the All-wise!

An advocate of the popular theory may seek to evade our conclusions by objecting to the definition of the first death, as already given. He may claim that it is not the simple separation of the two parts of a man; but that it also necessarily involves the idea of suffering in the part still existing. In that case, he confounds the result of dying with the death itself. And, if the idea of future suffering be essential

to the conception of death, then, since Christians are not thus to suffer they cannot die. But, though poetry may utter such fancies, observation and the Bible declare they do die. "In Adam all die."

But it may be claimed that the popular definition should be more exactly stated: that the first death embraces the separation of the two parts of man, together with the consequences to the part still living, according as the previous life had been a righteous or a wicked one. If this be correct, not only have we the before-mentioned confounding of results with that whence they proceed; but if death be not only the setting free the living part, but also the results that follow — the actual carrying of it, for the righteous, to inconceivable bliss — how can Paul (1 Corinthians 15:26) call death their "last enemy," and speak of it (2 Corinthians 1:10, 11 ; Philippians 2:27) as a thing they should pray to be delivered from? Such an evident absurdity forces us back to our previous statement, that the popular theory defines the first death to be simply the separation of two parts of a human being.

Surely a theory, leading to such inconsistencies and contradictions, cannot be part of that revelation which God gave to mankind. It needs but to be carefully scrutinized and tested by God's Word, to have its pretensions, totally refuted and rejected. But if we take the word "death" in its literal meaning, as the cessation of existence — the first death terminating at the resurrection; the second, a like cessation of existence, but unending, eternal; then the previous obscurity and contradictions vanish, and we perceive that the Bible is throughout in harmony with itself.

And so, not a few of the questions which still perplex the Christian world would be set at rest, if, first, all disputants would agree to take the language of the Bible in its literal sense. Who, that acknowledges literal death as the penalty of sin, finds any question in regard to the atonement of Christ, whether or not he was a strictly vicarious sacrifice? And so of other disputed points. The reformer, Luther, well observes (Annotation in Deuteronomy): "That which I have so often insisted on elsewhere, I here once more repeat, viz., that the Christian should direct his first efforts towards understanding the literal sense (as it is called) of the Scripture, which alone is the substance and the faith of Christian theology. The allegorical (figurative) sense is commonly uncertain, and by no means safe to build our faith upon; for it usually depends on human opinion and conjecture only. Therefore, Origen and Jerome, and similar of the fathers are to be avoided. For later writers, unhappily following their too-much-praised and prevailing example, it has come to pass that men make just what they please of the Scriptures, until some accommodate the Word of God to the most extravagant absurdities."

That the literal interpretation of God's word conduces to its better understanding, cannot be better demonstrated than by adducing a fact from the writer's own observation. A theological professor, lecturing to his class upon heaven as the glorious abode of saints already departed, when he came to consider Acts 2:34: "For David is not ascended into the heavens," frankly confessed, "I do not understand, it." While admiring his candour, we can but exclaim: "Not understand it!" He should have understood it. It was spoken not to a company of metaphysicians and deep thinkers, but to the common people. It was an important step in an argument which convinced three thousand of the truth of Jesus' claim to the Messiah-ship. No doubt they were more familiar with the Old Testament, which was all they had, than are we; but for us, with the additional light of the New Testament, not to understand the passage, is now days creditable, to say the least. What is the key to its comprehension? Simply this: take the passage literally, acknowledge that it means just what it says, and all is plain. If it contradicts your cherished theories, throw them, not God's Word, aside!

3. This right understanding of the Bible WILL INSURE A PROPER PRESENTATION OF THE TERRORS OF THE Lord, of which we hear so little from the pulpit at the present day. God is a God of love; and we are glad to learn that: but He is also a God to be feared by evil doers; we need to learn that. He is terrible to his adversaries! When He would bring the Israelites out of Egypt, and make of them a people to His name, He must first enforce this lesson. And well He did: in the judgments of Egypt, in the terrors of Mount Sinai. "The sight of the glory of the Lord was like devouring fire on the top of the mount in the eyes of the children of Israel." Exodus 24:17.

And once, at least, in their desert history, did they behold the fire leap forth from the enshrouding cloud to devour the rebellious. The fear of the Lord was to them the beginning of wisdom. Terror is needed to awaken, and then love to draw. One sided is now the preaching of the ministry; they shun to declare the whole counsel of God. But none need hesitate to announce the final, literal destruction of wicked men; it is not repugnant to our reason and sense of justice, as is the abhorrent doctrine of eternal torment.

* See similar Greek of Ephesians 6:19: translated "high places," and referring to evil spirits.

4. The truth of a literally interpreted Bible UTTERLY SUBVERTS THE GROWING TENDENCY TO UNIVERSALISM. If the dogma, "All souls are immortal," be a tenet of the Bible, then, logically, from the Word of God, is proved both the eternal torment and the universal salvation of the wicked! How, otherwise, according to the dogma, can we interpret Ephesians 1:10: "That He might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven [Greek: in the heavens] and on earth," except that wicked men and angels are all finally to be pardoned, whether they will or no? And so of Colossians 1:20, and Acts 3:21. And where then is Christ's explicit word, "everlasting punishment?" The rejection of this dogma of inherent immortality alone furnishes the solution of the

difficulty. Acts 3:23: "Every soul that will not hear that prophet shall be destroyed from among the people." Sin, and the agents of sin, will disappear together; and the surviving redeemed will be "one in Christ."

5. In like manner is the tendency to Infidelity repressed. Men are not, as by the orthodox belief, driven off into infidelity; repelled by hard, untruthful presentations of our loving Father; or disgusted with contradictory interpretations of His Holy Word. How erroneous at best the idea our fallen humanity forms of its Creator and constant Benefactor; an error fostered even by our religious teachers! It is not God that as popular theology expresses it, is reconciled to us by Christ's sacrifice of Himself. It is we that are thus reconciled to God. "And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to Himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation: to wit, that God was in Christ reconciling THE WORLD unto Himself." 2 Corinthians 5: 18, 19. "God is Love." 1 John 5:16.

6. The rejection of natural immortality gives us the vantage ground in contests with THE ERRORS OF ROMANISM. If we stand with them in their belief in conscious existence of the deceased, how can we logically condemn the invocation of dead saints, which grows into worship of the same? "May we not," they say, "ask a friend on earth to pray to God for us"? Yes, certainly. And since David says, "If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me," then the holier and freer from sin that friend, the more should we ask his intercession? "Yes!" Then if that friend is now perfectly holy, and in the immediate presence of God, why should I not all the more ask him still to pray for me, since there is no precept in the Bible which forbids it?"

But take away that dogma upon which their religion is founded, in its worship of the dead Virgin Mary and other saints, and in its doctrine of purgatory, and the whole fabric of corruption falls to the ground.

So with the absurdities of Spiritualism; and so with Mormonism, professing to be based upon the revelations of certain golden plates, brought to the knowledge of its founder by some departed saint; so also the vagaries of Swedenborgianism, which seems to be a blossoming out of the orthodox method of allegorically or spiritually interpreting the words of Scripture. Each alike read their death warrant in a literally interpreted Bible.

7. Not alone in the encounter with these false religions, but also in the WORK OF MISSIONS generally, this reformed belief would be found most helpful. It puts the missionary at a fearful disadvantage to be compelled to tell, for instance, an intelligent Hindu: "The true God whom I declare unto you, offers to make you eternally happy; but your father, and all your ancestors, because, as you confess, they did wrong, although not at the time realizing their peril, He is now tormenting, and will to all eternity."

"How can I be sure," he may well reply, "that such is the true God? We have our Juggernaut, who delights in the blood of victims. I will take my chance with the millions who have gone before me."

He has not had the opportunity to read the plain words of Holy Writ: "As I live, saith the Lord, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked." Ezekiel 33:11. And if he did, would it outweigh the statement of the missionary, backed as it is by the voice of Christendom? Nothing but the religion of Christ could have stood this strain which man has put upon it! But let the missionary be able to say: "I bring you glad tidings of a life to come, to be obtained only through a loving Saviour. For your parents this good news has come too late, and they have lost the life; but at the resurrection, God will not punish them above what they deserve." The thought of their second death, with its attendant pain of dying, mercifully graduated according to their guilt, he can endure; but he cannot bear the thought of their suffering to all eternity. Such a message brings hope to him, without the accompaniment of unending despair and woe for his loved ones.

8. Still another recommendation of this doctrine is that it teaches us rightly to estimate the BODY. The popular idea of man's soul and body is that the soul is the higher part, and man proper, which is imprisoned and cramped within the body, and is unable fully to exercise its powers until released from this imprisonment. An unfortunate sequel to this anticipated liberty is the inevitable resurrection, at which time we must return to our prison, and though beautified and improved, it is to be our prison eternally. No wonder, with such ideas, we hear so little in Christian conversation, prayers, or sermons, of what was to early Christians a prominent topic, the resurrection. Hear Paul, as before the Sanhedrim, He says (Acts 23:6): "Of the hope and resurrection of the dead I am called in question."

Before Agrippa, he expands this thought of the resurrection (Acts 26: 6): "And now I stand and am judged for the hope of the promise made of God unto our fathers: unto which hope our twelve tribes instantly serving God day and night, hope to come."

No, indeed; the poetic fancy that the body is a clog, a hindrance, is found in heathen philosophy and in hymn books, not in the Bible. That gives no warrant for the strange degrading of our bodies and of material things, which to many seems almost vital to the existence of religion itself. When, at the completion of His material creation, God surveyed His work, He pronounced it "very good." And though we are so weakened and debilitated by sin, yet the Psalmist could say: "I will praise Thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made." Psalm 139:14. Referring, certainly, not to the construction of a hypothetical soul; for of that he could know no more than do the theologians of our day. Our life in this world is in the body: when the Bible speaks of living again, it is in the body;

for the saints, a glorified body; “there is a natural body and there is a spiritual body.” 2 Corinthians 15:44. “Jesus is the Saviour of the body.”

Ephesians 5:23. He will redeem us from all infirmity in the future life, and make us immortal.

And above all, the human organism that we so disparage and condemn, how highly has it been honoured, and what bright gleams of the future glory are reflected upon it in the marvellous fact that “The WORD was made flesh!” John 1: 14. “He, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery [Greek: “Harpagmon” freely translated, ‘a thing to be grasped and retained,’ as a robber his prey] to be equal with God, but was made in the likeness of men, and being found in fashion as a man, he became obedient unto death.”

Philippians 2:6, 8. And now having risen from the dead, “in fashion as a man,” he has entered, as our High Priest, into the holiest of all, “to appear in the presence of God for us ; and unto them that look for Him shall He appear [‘in like manner,’ Acts 1:11] the second time without sin unto salvation.” Hebrews 10: 24, 28. Then as He takes His promised, everlasting dominion. King of kings and Lord of lords, it is in human form still that “the Son of Man shall sit upon the throne of His glory.” Matthew 25:31.

Thus doth God honour and exalt our material organism; and yet the simple Christian, who reverences his Bible, and accepts its literal statement that the soul is formed of material elements, is stigmatised as a materialist, as if that were almost an infidel! Read again Genesis 2:7: “The Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and man became a living soul.” The breath of life, we learn from Genesis 7:21, 22, is an attribute of all animals; therefore, “breathing the breath of life into,” means, simply. He made the man to live; that is, he became a living soul who before was a dead soul, as in the Hebrew of Numbers 6:6 and 9:6, 7, 10. Who became a living soul? Man, formed of the dust of the ground, of matter. Hear the words of the preacher, Ecclesiastes 3:20: “All [man and beast] are of the dust, and all turn to dust again.” Is the writer of Ecclesiastes an inspired Materialist? David says, Psalm 104:4: “He knows our frame,” and, result of this knowledge, “he remembers that we are dust.” And again the Psalmist says (Psalm 30:9): “When I go down to the pit [grave], shall the dust praise Thee?”; that is, when I shall be but dust, “shall it praise Thee?” Rather materialistic language this, from the sweet singer of Israel! If the Bible does not teach a material nature for the soul, what else does it teach? Surely not the immaterialism of the present day. Either that is in error, or the Bible is.

What is now the practical value of such reformation of our views of the body? When we behold the marvellous skill with which God has constructed this material frame, and how highly He has honoured it, even taking its nature upon Himself, certainly we can but highly esteem that which stands so high in the estimation of its Maker. If we believe that it is not a vile case or prison, which invests our independent and noble self, but that man is the organism, and upon the integrity of his organization his existence depends, then shall we care for and cherish it, as we have but little thought of doing heretofore. Accepting as the literal truth (Ecclesiastes 9:10), that “There is no work or wisdom in the grave,” not only shall we be more in earnest “to do with our might what our hand finds to do” here, but we shall see to it that by proper care the organism is well fitted for its work. Parents and teachers will not neglect the physical training for the mental, but will be zealous to carry out the maxim which experience, in spite of theory, teaches us — “mens sana in corpore sano” — a sound mind is found in a sound body! Laws of health will thus be accepted as vital to our welfare. It will be acknowledged, that indulgence of the appetites, excess in eating and drinking, is not only sin but folly; it is a sin against our own existence, that is, a sin against the soul. And so of any of the sinful indulgences of youth, which the world styles the harmless “sowing of wild oats.” As Peter enjoins us: “Abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul,” against your very existence in this world as well as the future. 1 Peter 2: 11.

And wisdom’s warning is, “He that sins against Me wrongs his own soul; all that hate Me love death.” Proverbs 8:36.

So also the high, Bible estimate of long life, which is borne out by the universal sentiment of mankind, we are now able to understand. So marked is this conception in the Old Testament that many have fallen into error, as we have shown it to be, of supposing that its promises and rewards do not extend beyond the present life. And this universal clinging to life has no doubt greatly disturbed many a Christian, as he mistakenly grieves to find that his life has so strong a hold upon his heart. But, though for Christ’s people the sting of death has been taken away, yet, unless it comes to us as it did to Abraham, an old man and full of years, it is an enemy still; it robs us of that existence we otherwise might have had. Not only may the Christian cling to life: he may, he should, take every right means to preserve it. Hezekiah’s mourning at the announcement of his impending death, and his subsequent rejoicing when fifteen years were added to him (Isaiah 38.), is perfectly natural and right. But on the popular theory, that death is but a summons into the immediate presence of his God and the superior bliss of heaven, how unmanly, how faithless, his reluctance! David (Psalm 30.) prays and expostulates that he might be returned to health, and praises God that his prayer was heard. Now if, on the popular theory, the continuance of earthly life must defer the heavenly, could he honestly say, in Psalm 17:15: “I shall be satisfied when I awake in thy likeness?” Paul, in the new dispensation, fully agrees with these Old Testament saints, when he says of Epaphroditus, his companion in labour (Philippians 2:26): “Indeed he was sick, nigh unto death, but God had mercy on him,” — that is, must we suppose, in that he did not take him to heaven! Query: then how much did he want to go? So Paul says of himself, 2 Corinthians 1:10: “Who delivered us from so great a death [as that threatened at Ephesus], and doth deliver, [is still delivering us from death in general,] in whom we trust He will yet [still] deliver us, ye also helping together by prayer for us.”

Yet this is the Paul who, in the same epistle, our translators would have us believe, thus declares it a special mercy not to die, and at the same time longs to die! Philippians 2:17, and 1:23.

A singular story, on the popular view, is that of Moses' death with its attendant circumstances. He had been forbidden to go into Canaan, and sorely grieved does he show himself by the prohibition. Four times in his recorded addresses to the children of Israel does he allude to it (Deuteronomy 1:37; 3:23, 27; 4:21, 22; 31:2), telling how he had besought the Lord that he might go over and might "see the good land," till the Lord forbade him to "speak no more of this matter;" promising him, however, a distant view of Canaan from the mountain of Moab. And so we read in the last of Deuteronomy how he went up to Pisgah's top, and there the Lord showed him the land of promise. Now if Moses' desire was really to see the land his people were to possess, why did the Lord promise him this sight, and then take him to the mountain top and kindly point out to him the localities, if, on the popular theory, Moses was just about to have so much better (if we may reverently say) a bird's eye view of the whole land from the heavenly heights? No, the bitterness of Moses' disappointment, and the scene on Pisgah's height, are utterly at variance with the popular theory. Yet it is perfectly intelligible, if we accept literally the Lord's words to Moses, Deuteronomy 31:16: "Thou shalt sleep with thy father." He could not with spirit vision follow the Israelites in their passage through Jordan and in the future conquests. He could not be near, as modern theology suggests, "probably" as a ministering spirit, to those whom he had once loved and cared for.

The language of Job must henceforth apply to him: "His children come to honour and he knows it not; they are brought low, but he perceives it not of them." Can we believe that the Lord's language, in the personal conversation just quoted: "Thou shalt sleep with thy fathers," only means, "Thy body shall sleep with thy fathers' bodies!" Or, when Abraham is spoken of as gathered to his people (Genesis 25:8), does it mean that he, as a conscious being, has gone to be with them, when Holy Writ tells us (Joshua 24:2), that they were idolaters?

9. A general recognition of the soul's natural mortality and the adoption of the literal method of interpreting the Scriptures which that involves, WILL SURELY BRING TO US THE LONG SOUGHT CHRISTIAN UNITY.

The existence of so many denominations, whatever mitigations there maybe of the evil, is a sad reproach to our Christianity. Infidels take occasion to decry our faith, and the inexcusable ambiguity of its standard, which is understood in so many different ways. Christians mourn over the needless expenditure of denominational force, and the animosity and rivalries between those whose great duty it is to love one another.

Christ prayed that His people may be one; and the answer to that prayer, though long delayed, must yet come.

What is the cause of this diversity? Mark the answer. It has its origin in the acceptance by the church of the philosophical yet unscriptural dogma of the soul's inherent immortality. To sustain this, which is to all appearance explicitly denied in so many passages of Holy Writ, we must reject the literal, and search out some allegorical or figurative meaning, which we believe lies hidden in such passages. And thus license is given to interpret the whole Book by the same allegorical standard, as may best suit the wishes of different men. The literal meaning can be but one: the figurative varies according to the bent of each individual mind.

What is the remedy? A simple yet a radical one. However much it may conflict with their theories, let all Christians consent to take every passage of Holy Scripture, as of other writings, in the ordinary use and meaning of the language in which is written, except where such is unquestionably figurative. Then the Bible will everywhere agree with itself, and Christians likewise will then everywhere agree with one another. Shall we thus consent to do our part towards the fulfilment of Christ's prayer? Or shall we continue to make it and His Word void through our tradition?

10. Finally, to the individual Christian, not the least recommendation of the Bible doctrine of the soul, is the fact, that like all Scripture truth, it tends TO DEVELOP PERSONAL HOLINESS. "Be not conformed to this world: come out from among them and be ye separate," saith the Lord to "His people," whom He would "purify unto Himself, a peculiar people, zealous of good works." But how is it with the church of the present day? So far below the apostolic standard and example, that were Christ now to come, would He not ask of many, "What do ye more than others?"

Why is the prevailing type of piety so low? It is "through the deceitfulness of sin." Hebrews 3:13. In the moulding of Christian character, that original lie of the arch-deceiver still exerts its baleful influence. Each one who believes that if he sin he "will not surely die," for immortality is his by virtue of his creation, is too ready to think that a God of mercy will not condemn an immortal being to endless torment, if only in this life He can obtain the slightest semblance of yielding to His authority. And the formal act of acknowledging the supremacy of Jehovah, by uniting with His visible church, seems sufficient to fulfil such condition.

But the Bible — what saith it on this point? Those who, by patient continuance in well-doing, seek for eternal life, they shall inherit immortality. Even Paul, towards the close of that wonderful life of self-sacrifice, could say (Philippians 3:14): "If by any means [if possibly] I may attain unto the resurrection of the dead: "attain to that Ex-anastasis," the resurrection from out the dead ones, "the first

resurrection” of those who shall not be hurt of the second death. For this will he yet strive and press forward in the race, to reach the prize, that gift of God, eternal life. It is those who are worthy, Christ says, that shall walk with Him in white. Revelation 3:4.

God is now choosing out of the Gentiles a people for His name (Acts 15:14), to whom he will give life through Christ, the Quickener. To these who shall be “accounted worthy to attain that world, the children of God, the children of the resurrection” (Luke 20:35, 36), to them, in addition, “shall be given the kingdom, and the dominion, and the greatness of the kingdom under the whole heaven.” Daniel 7:27. For such high stations of honour and usefulness God will not accept of any whose character will not stand the test of its trial here. He is not under obligation, as we have been virtually taught, to glorify us, or else to torment us for ever. Those found not worthy. He “will blot out their names out of the book of life;” an “everlasting destruction,” leaving “neither root nor branch.”

How solemn the thought, moulding our characters here day by day, as death finds us, so must we be in character, when, at the great day, God restores to us “the breath of life.” “He that is unjust, let him be unjust still; he that is righteous, let him be righteous still.” Revelation 22:11. “As the tree falls, so shall it lie.” Ever near is that solemn moment! The true doctrine of the soul teaches, that to the individual his next conscious moment after death is the resurrection morning. Death may befall us at any moment. Ah! On this view, how close the judgment day attends upon our steps “Behold the Judge stands before the door!” Watch ye! Watch ye! is continually ringing in our ears: give all diligence to make your calling and election sure! For it is the word of the Master, “Not every one that saith unto me. Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven.”

11. ANSWERS TO OBJECTIONS

Objections commonly used against this Doctrine.

1. It is objected that this is the doctrine of annihilation, and that since there is no such word in the Bible, nor such fact known to modern science, which denies the absolute annihilation of matter, therefore the inference that these views are sustained by ignoring science, and dishonestly perverting the Bible. Religious discussions have ever been noted for their un-Christ-like bitterness, and in this instance it is sad to observe how general and persistent has been the endeavour to excite prejudice against these views. An elaborate treatise in favour of eternal torment, published by the American Tract Society, from the pen of Prof. S. C. Bartlett, D.D., of Chicago, is an illustration in point. The author sadly needs the reminder that certainly it is more Christian, and probably quite as effective, to answer an opponent’s arguments, without continually assailing his motives. In the outset of that work we are told that, notwithstanding the objection of his opponents to the use of the word annihilation, he will thus designate their views.

We read, page 5, “It is indeed an indispensable term.” Why indispensable? Is it because he fears to enter upon the discussion unless he can begin his appeal to popular prejudice, by assuming to array against his antagonist both philosophy and the Bible? He must or should be aware, that though the term annihilation is not found in the Bible, that, which from its derivation (“ad” and “nihil,” to reduce to nothing) it expresses, is often found there, as in Jehovah’s language, Isaiah 41:12: “They shall be as nothing, as a thing of naught.” So in this Biblical way we understand the declaration, “the soul that sins, it shall die,” to mean, not that the elements of which it is composed are annihilated, but that its organization is totally destroyed. The individual, as such, no longer exists; he is “a thing of naught.” In the Biblical sense, he is annihilated.

2. Another writer, Revelation N. L. Rice, D.D., in a recent publication of the American Presbyterian Board, informs us that the doctrine “logically involves the denial of the possibility of sin and holiness in man.” “For matter,” he asserts, “is incapable of voluntary action, and of course of moral action.” When he has succeeded in demonstrating the falsity of the position so many physiologists hold, that the brain generates thought, then his condition may be a “logical” one, not till then. The developing faculties of the child, keeping pace with the development of its immature brain; its intellect developed and strengthened by exercise, as other bodily functions; the vigour of the man’s intellect proportioned to the depths and extent of the cortical, or cell portion, of his brain; injury of the brain attended by limitation of mental faculties: all go to show the absolute dependence of the thoughts upon the function of this material organ, as they perish altogether when this organ ceases to act. Psalms 146:4.

If thought be not evolved by the brain, but out of some immaterial entity distinct from the body, then animals must also possess the same; for who can deny to the dog, the horse, the elephant, a certain degree of premeditation and reason? And if the argument that “what is immaterial must be immortal” proves anything, it proves that animals, possessing this immaterial something, are likewise immortal. The same writer falls into the error of assuming, in opposition to observers generally, that the mind is never unconscious even in sleep; citing, as one proof, the abnormal condition of somnambulism (as if one could demonstrate healthful life from its diseased condition!); and as a second proof, that we dream in sleep. But it is well known that deep is not accompanied by dreams except it be disturbed, when the brain is partially aroused to consciousness and activity, and even then but partially, as shown by the usual confusion of thought in dreams.

3. It is objected that this doctrine of future destruction takes from the sinner the fear of future punishment: that it robs the law of its terrors. To awaken the sinner, is it indeed necessary to threaten him with such horrors as the human mind cannot conceive nor endure the thought of? It is a fearful thing to fall, as a sinner, into the hands of the living God, who is able and will destroy the whole being in

the fires of hell. Is it nothing — the loss of existence for ever! Is it nothing — the looking forward to that fearful day of God's "wrath, that shall burn as an oven, and utterly consume the wicked? And yet this doom is not such as would make the redeemed question the justice and mercy of their Heavenly Father: it is not the frightful, imaginary hell which would send up its shrieks and groans for ever, to mingle even with the harmonies of heaven!

In reality, the penalty popularly attached to sin over-leaps its Mark. It is so excessive that the sinner, feeling he does not deserve it, will not believe that it can ever be executed. Or if, as in the case of the more unthinking, he really believes in eternal torment, he quiets himself with the thought that a God of mercy must be so reluctant to inflict such a penalty, that He will, at the last moment, gladly accept of even the semblance of repentance.

4. Another objection is founded upon our natural repugnance to lying in the grave till the resurrection. To the survivors, it is indeed a sad thought; and in truth, death is still an enemy, though hymns may sing of the angel death, who brings us to our God, and Young, in his "Night Thoughts," may even hail our dreaded foe as the "Prince of Peace (!)" But this sleep, what is it to the sleeper himself? Closing his eyes to earth, the next conscious moment and the trump of God, on the resurrection morning, peals through the chambers of the dead, and calls him from his silent dwelling place. Do we call it gloomy to lay ourselves down at ten at night, and soundly, unconsciously sleep till the morning bell rouses us from our slumbers to a new day? Jesus said to St. John the Revelator (Revelation 22:20): "I come quickly!" How quickly? If six months were to intervene ere John should deep in death, since to the sleeping time is annihilated, it were to the apostle just six months till the promised coming of his Lord. Nay, rather on this view, how solemn, how imposing the thought, that the day of judgment is just before any one of us: "The Judge stands before the door." James 5:9. For by fire, by flood, by sudden violence, our life may at any moment be taken — the next conscious moment and the Judge has come! With this thought in mind how appropriate our Lord's warning: "Watch, therefore; for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come." Matthew 24:42.

5. Some one may object to this Biblical conception of the soul, that to him it seems to make no sufficient distinction between soul and body.

But does the objector observe that, in bringing forward this objection, he opens the way for a like objection to the popular theory, and one which, carefully considered, is fatal to it?

Between Soul and spirit, the popular theory in reality makes NO distinction. And so Webster presents one as the synonym of the other. He gives a definition of Spirit: the soul of man; the intelligent, immaterial, immortal part of human beings; and illustrates this by Ecclesiastes 12:7: "Then shall the spirit return to God who gave it." We have already shown from the Bible that the spirit of man, as of animals, is the principle of life, called in Scripture "the breath of life:" that an "intelligent being" cannot be that which returns to God, unless he was before with God; which surely is more than popular theology is prepared to claim.

That this popular confounding of soul and spirit is a radical error, the Bible demonstrates in its plain teaching of a Marked distinction between the two. For example, Hebrews 4:12: "Piercing to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit:" an unmeaning expression on the popular theory; but perfectly intelligible on the Bible view. Again, 1 Thessalonians 5:23: "And I pray God, your whole spirit, and soul, and body, be preserved blameless."

What are we to understand from this latter passage? Certainly by popular theology we are taught that though the apostle appears here, in this three-fold division, to recognize a distinction between the three, that difference as between spirit and soul is so slight that it cannot be recognized, while between soul and body it is the utmost possible. But what does the inspired Word teach? In this enumeration of the constituent parts of the living man, it presents us first, the spirit, or vital principle, God-given and to God returning. It is that which vivifies, which makes alive, what without it were dead; as James (2: 26) declares: "The body, without the spirit, is dead," — the spirit being that which quickens, which gives life. As such, death could not be, and is not predicated of it, the absence of it being death; but, as we have already seen, in the holy word, death is again and again predicated of the soul. Next, we have two more constituents, soul and body: what distinction does the Bible make between these two? None so Marked but that the term "soul" the Bible applies to the material frames even when this has been deprived of its spirit 1 See Numbers 6:6, and 9:6, 7, 10, already quoted, where "dead body," of our translations is, in the original, "dead soul;" and this the language of the Creator himself to Moses. So in Leviticus 21: 11, the word of Jehovah forbids the high priest to come near to "a dead body:" Hebrews: "nephesh," soul — a dead soul. So also Haggai 2: 13, and other passages.

And yet, though the Bible regards the two as so nearly the same that it thus appears to apply the special name of the one to the other, still it does recognize a difference, as this passage in Thessalonians shows. Critically speaking, the term "body" denotes the structure, as such, referring to the material elements, which in our present life form an "earthy" body, but which in the future are to be replaced by elements of a higher order, in some way more highly vitalized, that is, possessing more of the vital principle, and so denominated a spiritual body (1 Corinthians 15: 44), like to Christ's body after His resurrection, to whose progress barred doors were no obstacle (John 20: 19), which could come and go like the wind. John 3:8.

While the term “soul” refers to the organization as such, the thought being directed rather to the orderly assemblage of the different organs with their varied functions ; in the future, though virtually the same soul, yet with its changed and exalted constituents, becoming capable of other functions and powers as yet to us unknown.

* John 3:8: “The “wind blows where it lists, and thou hears the sound thereof; but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goes: so is every one that is born of the spirit.” Not, so is the manner of the birth of every one born of the Spirit, but so IS EVERY ONE BORN OF THE SPIRIT: such will be the saints of the resurrection.

But it may still be urged that this distinction is rather a verbal than a tangible one; that it must ever be impossible to present this soul without a body. Perhaps it may be so; for Paul, in 1 Corinthians 15:44, calls our present earthly body (in the original), “psychikon,” a soulical or soulish one.

Yet let us see if this distinction may not be evidenced to our outward senses, as well as to our thoughts. We will suppose a healthy man has fallen into the water, and is rescued just as life seems to be extinct. You immediately set yourself about his resuscitation; alternately expanding and compressing the chest you supply fresh air to the lungs, you omit nothing, if so be that the vital principle, the spirit, has not departed. But at last you give over effort; all is in vain. God has taken away that which He alone can restore. What is this which lies before you? The dead body of a man, you say. Yes, and it is likewise, in Scripture language, as truly a dead soul. The organization is intact; every organ is in place; and in such condition that the vital spark is alone needed to set the human machinery in motion again. A dead Boul, as was Adam, when our Maker had formed him of the dust of the ground, ere He breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, by which he became alive, a living soul.

But now suppose again that a man has been caught and drawn through between the heavy rollers of some powerful machinery. Every organ is pressed into a shapeless mass; the very bones are broken. Hastily you stop the machinery; you gather up tenderly the undistinguishable fragments; you enclose them in a proper receptacle, that you may give them decent burial. What have you now? The dead body of a man — It is all there; but not now as before, it is a dead soul. It was, but is no longer organized matter; the organism, the soul, has been destroyed. The former body needed but the word of the Almighty calling back to it the breath of life, and, like the widow’s son of Nain, the man would “sit up and begin to speak;” the latter body requires first the creating hand of the same Almighty power to form anew the destroyed organs.

But can man destroy the soul? Is it not God who only can do that; and whom therefore in Matthew 10:28, we are warned to fear? Yes, man can temporarily. Read from the Bible (Joshua 11: 11), of the captors of Hazor: “They smote all the souls with the edge of the sword, utterly destroying them,” and other like passages already quoted. But this destruction, this death of man’s doing, is not beyond recovery; it is but temporary. God has promised to, and will restore that soul “in the hour that is coming;” but the destruction of soul and body, which He makes in the fires of Gehenna, is a final one. That death is permanent, eternal. Well may we fear Who thus destroys!

On this view, how intelligible all those otherwise puzzling Scripture expressions, as: “He holds our soul in life;” “He spared not their soul from death;” “Thou wilt redeem my soul from the power of the grave;” “Thou wilt not leave my soul in hell [Hebrew: “Sheol,” the grave]; neither wilt thou suffer Thine Holy One to see corruption;” this last a prophecy of Christ, whose human organization, his soul, was not left in the grave to see corruption, but was raised again the third day: but was not a prophecy of David, whose soul was left in the grave, so that “he saw corruption” (Acts 13: 36); and so, as we are told, “he has not ascended into the heavens.” Acts 2:34.

But one has inquired, “Does not your definition of spirit conflict with such expressions as, ‘Sanctify God in your spirit’ [1 Corinthians 6:20]?” Can we sanctify God in this vital principle?” Most certainly. We can sanctify God in our thoughts, our emotions. These are the manifestations of the vital principle, the spirit within us. So fully is this recognized that, when in vigorous action, they take the name of “spirit” from that whence they derive their activity. They owe their very existence to this vivifying principle, this breath of life; as we read, Job 32:8: “But there is a spirit in man; and the inspiration [in-breathing of this spirit, Genesis 2:7] of the Almighty gives them understanding.” And they cease when that breath of life is taken from us; as saith the Psalmist: “His breath goes forth; in that very day, his thoughts perish.”

And while we thus regard thought and emotion as manifestations of the presence of the spirit, or breath of life, it will not be forgotten that they are the product of the soul’s action. They result from the exercise of the functions of the soul, or human organization, as that is put in motion by this indwelling principle of life; and so we properly speak of the various emotions as being feelings in, or of, the soul. And at times, in the Hebrew, the word “soul” stands for these emotions, which are the fruit of its operation, as Genesis 23:8: “If it be your mind,” — Hebrews: your soul. So also 1 Samuel 18: 1: “The soul of Jonathan was knit with the soul of David.”

It is to be expected that this doctrine, being so directly in conflict with the previous education and the life-long prejudices of the generally of Christians, will at first encounter great opposition. Some, no doubt, will regard it as uprooting all that they hold dear; for with very few exceptions, the instruction of the pulpit, of the Sabbath school, and of the fireside, and the writings in prose and poetry

of religious authors, all unite in proclaiming the inherent or natural immortality of the soul. But while such unanimity of sentiment should receive all due consideration, of course it cannot of itself weigh an atom against the declarations of God's Word. With the Apostle, we say: "Yea, let God be true, but every man a liar."

In these matters. Revelation must be our guide. No less an authority than Timothy Dwight, D.D., a former President of Yale, confesses (Sermons, Volume 1, Number 162): "Without revelation, the immortality of the soul must be entirely uncertain." And, however plausible may seem the deductions of philosophy and the argument from reason, the inner consciousness of every man commends the sentiment. Any knowledge of a future life apart from revelation is simply impossible.

This needed revelation God has given us; but the church for many centuries has refused to receive it, in the way that language is ordinarily understood. Instead of taking it literally, except where there can be no question but that it is figurative, she declares that its language is mainly figurative even where it were impossible to recognize this figurative intent except upon her declaration. So long has this been the rule of the church, Protestant as well as Romanist, that many good Christians deem it almost sacrilege now to question it.

But the time of this blind subserviency to human authority is passing by. We have the right, it is our duty, to inquire: Has the church indeed read aright the Holy Word? In this sin-ruined, sin-blinded world, in the struggle ever going on of truth with error, we may not unthinkingly assume that the truth in this matter has been triumphant. Whatever may have been our early training, what the beliefs of our revered fathers and religious teachers, however hoary with age the traditions of the church, with the faithful Bible student, with the humblest Christian, one word from our Heavenly Father, a single "Thus SAITH the Lord," far, far outweighs them all! It well becomes every man to take heed how, upon the only foundation that can be laid, he builds up Christian doctrine for himself and others; for the day is coming that shall try by fire all such work. "If any man's work shall abide, he shall receive a reward: if any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss!"

6. But it is asked: "If this be really the doctrine of the Bible, why is it that so many good and worthy men, the great bulk of Christians, at the present and for centuries past, have failed to recognize and accept it?" The objection has much apparent weight, and much is made of it. But we forget how corrupt has been the church, and how comparatively recent it is, that the Reformed church has regained that portion of truth she now holds. We have already noted the partial character of the Reformation of the 16th Century, and the obstacles with which it contended. Is Satan less busy with the truth now than then?

Is he not still "the Prince of the power of the air." And wonderfully in this thing does he take advantage of the prevalent subserviency to the opinions of other men, which, especially on religious subjects, has marked mankind in all ages. It is related of the great Rabbi Hillel, the authority of whose name in after years silenced all controversy, that when he first began to teach, once on a time he reasoned all day to prove a certain point. No one would hear to him.

At last in despair he cried out: "It must be so; for so I received it of the Rabbi Shammai." "Ah, why did you not tell us that before," was the reply; "now we will hear you!" So, although we have the standard of truth in our hands, and boast the right of private judgment, yet few are ready to read and think for themselves, but must submissively look about for some Christian Rabbi to do their thinking for them.

But, vain reliance! In other sciences the professors and teachers are ever on the alert for new discoveries in the region of the great Unknown that lies all around us; but the reverse is true of theology. A bold man is that professor of the science who ventures to hold and teach other than that he has received from the traditions of his elders. The fearful cry, Heresy! Heresy! Which has brought many an earnest Christian to the stake in days past, will soon be ringing in his ears. If he has a questioning mind, he had better expend its strength upon any doctrine rather than that of the inherent immortality of the soul; which is so flattering to man's pride, and so is wrought with the traditions of the church, though these came through Rome. And the minister in his pulpit must preach as he has been taught. As an educated man, we can hardly expect him to investigate, certainly not readily to accept, so un-philosophical a belief. Besides, no doubt for many of the ministry at present, their usefulness would be greatly impaired were they to state their convictions on this question.

But the writer will speak for them, and he begs the reader to mark his words. From personal inquiry, he has reason to believe, that a large proportion of the ministry are in reality swerving away from the faith once delivered to the saints. They hold on to inherent immortality; but they cannot in their hearts accept eternal torment. Therefore they lean towards so-called Restorationism, or practical Universalism. This is safer for them, to say the least; for it does not involve opposition to Satan's pet doctrine of natural immortality; or as the arch-deceiver first formulated it: "Ye shall not surely die."

Nor for the laity has it been permitted, till a recent period, to enquire deeply into these matters. Not many years since and the writer, with his present unorthodox but Biblical belief, would have not been permitted to retain his position as a church official, nor even that of church member. Surely, in view of all these peculiar obstacles to the spread of this truth, we can but "thank God and take courage"

that so much has been accomplished; and there has been awakened an interest in these questions, and in the study of God's Word, that will yet bear fruit. May it all be "TO THE GREATER GLORY OF GOD!"

My brother laymen in the church: this question now set before you, and these facts as given you, bring to you a duty. It is first, that you carefully study the Word of God, like the Berean Christians searching the Scriptures daily whether these things are so. Decide this for yourself. Take it on no man's authority, but according to the light which God's Spirit and Word give you.

It may be that, if you are in advanced age, your early training and the power of old habits of thinking and of unquestioning submission to human authority may be so strong that such investigation will only perplex and confuse you. If you are of that number, let the matter pass. If you trust in Christ as your Saviour, He will give you life in the future, and will then kindly show you how much better He has been than you thought Him.

But if the chains of habit press less heavily upon you, if your mind is free to search into the deeper truths of God's justice and love, and if you are led conscientiously to adopt the literal reading of the Bible as true, it is then your duty for the church of Christ, and for God's work in this sinful world, to spread this truth. Among your neighbours, church friends and associates, wherever God gives you influence, there is your sphere of labour for Him.

Look not to some one else to bring about this great reform. You have seen that we cannot look to our theological professors, or to many of the ministry. Neither can we hope that the religious magazines and periodicals will help spread the truth. Here is the writer's experience: In February 1871, he re-published in America an Essay on Future Punishment, by Revelation Henry Constable, Prebendary of Cork, Ireland. A lengthy review of this appeared the New Englander of the following October, and as it contained some misconceptions, and some uncourteous reflections, a request was made for permission to insert a reply. The prospectus of that magazine declares of it: "It disclaims allegiance to any party in theology or politics; and signifies the independence with which it Acts by adopting as its motto the Horatian line, 'Nullius addictus jurare in verba magistri.' "(Lit. accustomed to swear in the words of no master).

The year previous, the writer of this had, on personal solicitation from the editors, subscribed fifty dollars to help keep so independent a magazine above water. But the loud professions of its prospectus and of its classical motto, when they came to the test, were strangely ignored, and the writer was in effect informed, that the magazine was no place for a reply to its own charges! The reader can make his own comments.

No 1 help if at all must come from the simple, earnest laymen of the churches, and it is you, my Christian brother, who must do your part. Jesus came to bring life and immortality to light. As the Father sent Him into the world, even so has He sent you. (John 17:18.) To him erelong we must answer the question: "How have you tilled your part of the field?" You, and we all, must do all that is possible to promote the study of the Bible, and to enlighten the Christian community on these points, till at last a public Christian sentiment will uphold our pastors in breaking away from the theological trammels of the past, and in thinking and speaking out for themselves. What will you do?

And to you, my impenitent friend, without God and without hope in this world, this question presents itself with a fearfully-practical interest. It directly concerns you: what shall your future be? It may be you are flattering yourself with the thought that you are immortal This the word of God denies. Immortality is not yours by right; yet most freely is it offered to you, if by "patient continuance in well doing" you will "seek for it." In that dread day, when "all in their graves shall hear the voice of the Son of Man and shall come forth," which resurrection shall be yours— of life, or of condemnation? Now is the time to secure immortality.

Now it is for you to choose; then it will be too late. Oh! Cannot the love of our God, who is not a stem, revengeful Judge, but a kind, infinitely-loving and forgiving Father to us all, cannot His love for your soul, not wishing you to perish, but to have everlasting life, even sparing not His own Son to save you; cannot such love reach your heart! Take Him as your Saviour. Give your spirit, and soul, and body, to Him; and in this life you will find that His service is a rich reward, and you "shall receive, in the world to come, LIFE EVERLASTING." Luke 18:30. You may make this promise yours: "When Christ, who is our Life shall appear, then shall ye also appear with Him in glory." For then, "raised INCORRUPTIBLE," the righteous shall be "ever with the Lord."

"Forever with the Lord,
Amen! So let it be!
Life from the dead in that word
IT IS IMMORTALITY!"

APPENDIX

It was the writer's intention at the outset, and is so stated in the preface, to give merely "a sufficient number" of proof-texts to sustain his position. But the statements he has made are so opposed to our general thought and speech, and to theological teachings, that it has seemed desirable to bring from the Bible, our only repository of truth, more full proofs on certain points.

The reader will, ere this, have understood that the writer claims that the soul is not an immaterial, immortal part of human beings, but that it is the proper ORGANISM of all animated [Latin, "anima," soul] beings, whether human or animal. While spirit, likewise a common attribute of man and animals, is THE VITAL PRINCIPLE, denominated also in the Bible the breath of life. And that while this spirit is infused into the organism, or soul, the man, or animal, is a living soul: when this spirit is taken away, the same becomes a dead soul.

This is claimed to be the Bible Doctrine of the Soul. We now go, not to theological essays, but to the Bible, for our proof.

PART 1

IN THE BIBLE, THE TERM "SOUL" IS USED OF ANIMALS AS IT IS OF HUMAN BEINGS.

Genesis 1:20: "God said, Let the waters bring forth abundantly the moving creature that hath a living soul (English Version: "life.")

Genesis 1:21: "Every living said [English Version 'creature,'] which the waters brought forth."

Genesis 1:24: "God said, Let the earth bring forth the living soul [English Version 'creature'] after his kind, cattle, and creeping thing, and beast."

Genesis 1:30: "God said to every beast of the earth, and to every fowl of the air, and to every thing that creeps upon the earth, wherein there is a living soul" [English Version 'life']; that is, as we have now learned from the Bible, a living organism.

Genesis 2:19: "And out of the ground the Lord God formed every beast of the field and every fowl of the air; and brought them unto Adam to see what he would call them. And whatsoever Adam called every living soul [English Version 'creature'] that was the name thereof." Read in this connection verse 7 of same chapter: "And the Lord God formed Adam of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and Adam became a living soul."

Genesis 9:10: "And with every living soul [English Version 'creature'] that is with you, of the fowls, of the cattle, and of every beast of the earth."

Genesis 9:12: "Between me and you and every living soul [English Version 'creature'] that is with you."

Genesis 9:15: "Every living soul [English Version 'creature'] of all flesh." Genesis 9:16: "Every

living soul [English Version 'creature'] of all flesh."

Ten times is the Hebrew of "living soul" found in the first nine chapters of Genesis. Once, where it refers to man, it is literally thus translated. In nine other instances, it refers to the lower orders of creation, and the fact of such reference is carefully concealed from the English reader unacquainted with Hebrew. Please notice also in seven of these nine instances it is Jehovah who uses this unorthodox language!

Precisely the same Hebrew words are found in Leviticus 11:10, referring to fishes: "All that have not fins and scales, of all that move in the waters, and of any living soul [English Version 'thing'] which is in the waters." Also in Leviticus 11:46: "This is the law of the beasts and of the fowl, and of every living soul [English Version 'creature'] that moves in the waters; and of every soul [English Version 'creature'] that creeps upon the earth," — and Jehovah is the speaker in these two instances also.

Leviticus 24: 18, Jehovah declares: "He that kills the soul of a beast [English Version simply, 'beast'] shall make it good [or recompense] soul for soul" English Version has "beast for beast."

Numbers 31:25, 28: "And the Lord spake unto Moses: Levy a tribute unto the Lord, one soul of five hundred, both of the persons, and of the beeves, and of the asses, and of the sheep."

Our English Version here classes together souls of men and of oxen, of asses and of sheep! How came our translators thus for once to give the literal rendering of the Hebrew? Was it because they could not well avoid it? Was it because of the evident fact that all of the usual substitutes here failed them? They could not translate “soul” by “life;” for that would imply that the lives of these men and animals were to be taken: they could not say, one “person” of five hundred, since animals are included in the enumeration: they could not well substitute “creature” or “thing,” since men are included. And so of all the instances where the original Hebrew of the Bible speaks of the souls of animals, in this case only the English reader has had given him the literal truth!

Proverbs 7:23: “As a bird hastes to the snare and knows not that it is for his soul.” (English Version ‘life.’)

Proverbs 12:10: “A righteous man regards the soul [English Version ‘life’] of his beast”— regards, cares for, not its life merely, but the comfort of its physical organism, its soul.

Ezekiel 47:9: “There shall be a great multitude of fish, because these waters shall come thither, and every living soul [English Version ‘thing’] shall live whither the river comes.”

Revelation 16:3: “And every living soul died in the sea.” The Greek of the New Testament corresponding to the Hebrew of the Old. Here again our translators could not escape a literal rendering. The Greek “psyche,” which is the same as the Hebrew “nephesh” when not rendered soul, is generally translated life, twice heart, three times mind. “Living life died” were too absurd; heart or mind were little better; while the general acquaintance of scholars with the Greek would not permit the substitution of “thing” for “psyche,” soul, as could be done with the less familiar Hebrew, “nephesh.”

And yet with all this proof that animals have, or are, souls, theologians teach us that the possession of a soul is what distinguishes man from animals!

PART 2

IN THE BIBLE, THE MATERIAL NATURE OF THE SOUL IS THUS REFERRED TO. It may touch various material objects:

Leviticus 5:2: “If a soul touch any unclean thing, whether it be a carcase of an unclean beast, or a carcase of unclean cattle, or the carcase of unclean creeping things/’ See also Leviticus 7:21; 22:6; Numbers 19:22.

It may itself be touched, even when dead:

Numbers 19:11: “He that touches the dead soul of any man shall be unclean. (English Version for “soul” gives “body,” but in the margin “soul of man.”)

It may be hungry:

Proverbs 19:15: “An idle soul shall suffer hunger.”

Proverbs 27: 7: “The full soul loathes [Hebrews treads under foot] an honey comb; but to the hungry soul every bitter thing is sweet.”

It eats:

Leviticus 7:20: “The soul that eats the flesh of the sacrifice.” — So also verses 25, 27; 17:12, 15. It satisfies its

hunger:

Proverbs 6:30: “Men do not despise a thief if he steal to satisfy his soul when he is hungry.”

Proverbs 13:25: “The righteous eats to the satisfying of his soul; but the belly of the wicked shall want.” See Jeremiah 1:19.

It enjoys eating and drinking:

Ecclesiastes 2:24: “Nothing better for a man than that he should eat and drink and should make his soul enjoy good in his labour.” Our translators, in the margin explain “soul enjoy good” by “delight his senses.”

It is thirsty:

Proverbs 25:25: “As cold waters to a thirsty soul, so is good news from a far country.”

It breathes:

1 Kings 20:32 (Hebrews): “Let now my soul breathe.”

It may be bought and sold:

Leviticus 22:11: “If the priest buy any soul with his money.”

Ezekiel 27:13: “They traded the souls [English Version persons] of men.”

Revelation 18:12, 13: “The merchandise of souls of men.”

It may be stolen:

Deuteronomy 24:7: “If a man be found stealing a soul.” (English Version “any of his brethren.”)

It is hunted (as a flea):

1 Samuel 24:11, 14: David say to Saul, “Thou hunts my soul to take it. After whom dost thou pursue?”

Psalm 7:5: “Let the enemy persecute [Hebrew: pursue] my soul and take it.”

The pursuer overtaking it may tear it to pieces:

Psalm 7:2: “Lest he, like a lion, tear my soul, rending it in pieces.”

It is delivered to the sword:

Psalm 22:20: “Deliver my soul from the sword.”

It is destroyed by the sword:

Joshua 11:11: “They smote all the souls that were therein with the edge of the sword, utterly destroying them.”

It may escape physical danger by flying:

Jeremiah 51:6: “Flee out of the midst of Babylon, and deliver every man his soul.”

It may escape danger by aid of a horse:

Amos 2: 15: “Neither shall he that rides the horse deliver himself.” (Hebrew: his soul).

And by escaping danger it lives on:

Genesis 19:20: Lot said: “Oh let me escape thither [to Zoar], and my soul shall live.”

It may be laid in iron:

Psalm 106: 18: “He [Hebrew: his soul] was laid in iron.” So the margin gives it.

It goes into the grave:

Job 33:18: “He keeps back his soul from the pit.”

Job 33:22: "Yea, his soul draws near unto the grave."

Job 33:28: "He will deliver his soul from going into the pit;" or "grave," as the same Hebrew word, in verse 22, is translated.

Psalms 30:3: "Thou hast brought up my soul from the grave."

Isaiah 38:17: "Thou hast in love to my soul delivered it from the pit of corruption." It may be left there and "see corruption:"

Psalms 16:10; Acts 2:27: "Thou wilt not leave my soul in hell [Hebrew: 'Sheol'; Greek: 'Hades; the grave] neither wilt thou suffer Thine Holy One to see corruption." We are expressly informed in Acts that this was not spoken of David, whose soul we may then understand was left in the grave, so that he saw corruption."

As in Acts 13:36, Paul declares: "For David, after he had served his generation by the will of God, fell on sleep, and was laid unto his fathers, and saw corruption." Observe the same nominative to these verbs. Now read the corroborative statement in Acts 2:34: "For David is not ascended into the heavens." If it be claimed, as is universally done, that "David" in these passages means David's body, then, we ask, who "served his generation?" But this attempted solution concedes the whole question, in that popular theology virtually confesses that the Bible calls the lifeless, material frame, David; for this is just what we contend for, that the organized body is the man, is David; with the spirit or principle of life, David alive; without it, David dead. Though left in the grave, it is not for ever.

Psalms 59:15: "God will redeem my soul from the power of the grave." Notwithstanding all this, theologians teach us that the soul is immaterial!

PART 3

IN THE BIBLE, THE MORTAL NATURE OF THE SOUL IS THUS REFERRED TO

It should be observed that, in the account of man's creation in Genesis 2:7, the very term qualifying soul, viz., living soul, in itself implies the possibility of what we find afterward spoken of, viz: dead soul.

Genesis 17:14: "That soul shall be cut off from his people."

Genesis 37: 22: "Let us not kill him." Hebrew: his soul

Exodus 31:14: "That soul shall be cut off from among his people."

Leviticus 7:21: "The soul that shall touch any unclean thing shall be cut off from his people."

Leviticus 7:25: "Even the soul that eats shall be cut off," etc.

Leviticus 19:8: The same.

Leviticus 20:6: "I will set my face against that soul, and will cut him off," etc.

Leviticus 23:29, 30: "Soul shall be cut off," "Will I destroy."

Leviticus 24: 17: "He that kills any man," — Hebrew: any soul of man.

Numbers 9:13: "Soul shall be cut off," etc.

Numbers 15:30, 31: "That soul shall be cut off."

Numbers 19:20: "That soul shall utterly be cut off."

Numbers 23: 10: “Let me [Hebrew: my soul] die the death of the righteous.”

Numbers 31:19: “Whosoever hath killed any person,” Hebrew: soul.

Numbers 35:11, 15: “Kills any person [Hebrew: soul] at unawares.”

Numbers 35:30: “Whoso kills any person [soul], the murderer shall be put to death; but one witness shall not testify against any person [soul] to cause him to die.”

Deuteronomy 19:6, 11: “Slay him,” — Hebrew: his soul: “smite him,” — Hebrew: his soul,

Deuteronomy 27:25: “Takes reward to slay an innocent person.” — Hebrew: soul.

Joshua 2:13: “Deliver our lives [Hebrew: souls] from death.”

Joshua 10:28: “He utterly destroyed all the souls.”

Joshua 10:30, 32, 35, 37, 39. “He utterly destroyed all the souls.”

Joshua 11:11: “Smote all the souls with edge of sword.”

Joshua 20:3, 9: “Whosoever kills any person [Hebrew: soul] unawares.”

Judges 5:18: “Jeopardized their lives [Hebrew: souls] unto the death.”

Judges 16:30: Samson said, “Let me [Hebrew: my soul] die with the Philistines.”

1 Samuel 22:22: “I have occasioned the death of all the persons [souls] of thy father’s house.”

1 Samuel 28:9: “Lays thou a snare for my life [Hebrew: soul] to cause me to die.”

2 Samuel 14:7: “For the life [Hebrew: soul] of his brother whom he slew.”

Job 33:18: “He keeps back his soul from the pit,” — grave.

Job 33:22: “Yea, his soul draws near unto the grave.”

Job 33:28: “He will deliver his soul from going into the pit.”

Job 36: 14: “They [Hebrew: their soul] die in youth.”

Psalms 22:20: “Deliver my soul from the sword.”

Psalms 30:3: “O Lord, though brought up my soul from the grave ; thou hast kept me alive, that I should not go down to the pit.”

Psalms 33:19: “To deliver their soul from death.”

Psalms 35:7: “A pit they have digged for my soul,” — “pit,” translated “grave” in Job 30:22.

Psalms 49:15: “God will redeem my soul from the power of the grave.”

Psalms 56:13: “Thou has delivered my soul from death.”

Psalms 59:2, 3: “Save me from bloody men; for, lo, they lie in wait for my soul.”

Psalms 58:1: “He spared not their soul from death.”

Psalms 89:48: “What man is he that lives and shall not see death? Shall he deliver his soul from the hand [or power] of the grave?”

94:17: “Unless the Lord had been my help, my soul had almost [Hebrew: is quickly] dwelt in silence.” Read with this 1 Samuel 2:9: “The wicked shall be silent in darkness.”

Proverbs 23:14: “Thou shalt beat him with the rod, and shalt deliver his soul from hell,” — Hebrew: “Sheol,” the grave.

Isaiah 53:12: “He poured out his soul unto death.”

Jeremiah 2:34: “In thy skirts is found the blood of the souls of the poor innocents.”

Jeremiah 38:16: “The King sware, As the Lord lives that made us this soul, I will not put thee to death, neither will I give thee into the hands of these men that seek thy life,” — Hebrew: soul,

Jeremiah 40:14, 15: “To slay thee,”— Hebrew: thy soul.

Ezekiel 13:19: “To slay the souls that should not die, and to save the souls alive that should not live.”

Ezekiel 18:4, 20, 21: “The soul that sins, it shall die; but if the wicked turn, he shall surely live, he shall not die.”

Ezekiel 12:25: “Like a roaring lion ravening the prey, they have devoured souls.”

Ezekiel 22:27: “Like wolves ravening the prey, to destroy souls.”

Acts 3:23: “Every soul, who will not hear that prophet, shall be destroyed from among the people.”

James 5:20: “Shall save a soul from death.”

Revelation 8:9: “And the third part of the creatures which were in the sea and had souls [Greek. in the plural “psychas;” E.V. ‘life’] died.”

Revelation 16:3: “Every living soul died in the sea.”

Notwithstanding all this, theology teaches that the soul cannot die — except in some figurative way!

PART 4

IN THE BIBLE, THE SOUL IS REPRESENTED AS BEING AN OBJECT VISIBLE AND TANGIBLE, EVEN AFTER LIFE HAS DEPARTED.

Leviticus 19: 28: “Te shall not make any cuttings in your flesh for the dead.” The literal Hebrew is “for a soul,” the word “dead” being understood, from the fact that it was only for one dead that this flesh-cutting would be practised.

Leviticus 21:1: “Defiled for the dead,” — Hebrew: on account of a soul, dead understood.

Leviticus 21:11: “Dead body,” — Hebrew: dead soul.

Leviticus 22: 4: “Unclean by the dead,” — Hebrew: by a soul, dead understood.

Numbers 5:2: “Defiled by the dead.” — Hebrew: by a soul, dead understood.

Numbers 6:6: “At no dead body.” — Hebrew: dead body.

Numbers 6: 11: “Sinned by the dead,” — Hebrew: by a soul dead understood,

Numbers 9:6: “Defiled by the dead body,” — Hebrew: by a soul, dead understood.

Numbers 9:7: The same, — Hebrew: by a soul, dead understood,

Numbers 9: 10: "By reason of a dead body," — Hebrew: of a soul, dead understood.

Numbers 31:19: "Hath killed any person [Hebrew: soul] and hath touched any slain." Here the adjective "slain" agrees in the Hebrews with "soul," supplied from preceding clause.

Haggai 2:13: "Unclean by a dead body," — Hebrew: soul, dead understood.

The Hebrew for "the dead," or "dead body," in the passages above is "nephesh," soul; twice with the Hebrew adjective for dead expressed, in the remaining instances understood from the context. In seven of the twelve instances, it is the language of Jehovah Himself. Surely the Creator of the soul here stands in direct opposition to modern theologians. He gives us to understand that the soul, of which He speaks so often in His Word, dies, and after its death is still a tangible object, perceptible to our senses. They teach us that the soul is an immortal, immaterial entity, which cannot die, and cannot be perceived by our senses. There cannot be much question here as to which has the right of it!

In the common language of men, the term "soul" is often used as it is in the Bible. A prominent daily journal recently stated of a disaster at sea, that "over forty souls perished." As far as the writer is aware the only explanation offered by theologians for this popular and Biblical use of the word is, that it is an example of the figure of speech termed synecdoche, by which a part is put for the whole. But let us see for ourselves if this figure of speech will indeed bear the strain thus put upon it. To take one of many instances: we read in Joshua 11:11, of the captors of Hazor: "They smote all the souls therein with the edge of the sword, utterly destroying them; they left not any to breathe."

The language of this, a simple historical narrative, should surely be taken in its simple literal sense: we understand that every soul was destroyed in the capture of that city. From other Scriptures we learn that they shall so remain, until the hour when they shall be recalled to life by Him, whose voice all in the graves shall hear. "No, no," says the theologian, "the soul I claim to be immortal, and when the Bible thus speaks of the physical destruction of the soul by physical means, it is by way of synecdoche, a figure of speech in which a part is put for the whole." A queer instance indeed of synecdoche, if a part, which we are told cannot die, is put for the rest, which, on the same authority, alone can die! But this pretence of an explanation is an utter failure: there is no synecdoche in the case at all. In synecdoche, a part is put for the whole; what is affirmed of that part must then apply to the whole: the part is here, declared literally utterly to perish, then the whole must thus literally perish. But does the whole thus literally perish? Does the whole man thus die? "Surely not," replies our perplexed opponent, "my theology teaches that the body alone can literally die:" and this confession virtually gives up the very condition essential to the existence of synecdoche is the case. And on further investigation we find the use of this figure of speech breaks down beyond all hope of recovery, since the Bible applies this same term "soul", to animals, which, according to the common theological teaching, have no part that can be called soul. And still further, when we learn that the Bible, in the most plain and straightforward manner, speaks of the soul of man as itself dead, and as such being tangible and communicating physical uncleanness, we are convinced that not all the figures of speech of the rhetorician, will sustain the popular theology in the discrepancy between its teachings and God's Word. One or the other must give way, and the thoughtful Christian will not long hesitate by which he will abide.

Christian men of thought and culture, to whom the church looks as its leaders in religious truth, is it not time for you seriously to consider these things! The truth of the material nature of the soul, clearly revealed in the Holy Word, yet rejected by the church at large, is being rapidly demonstrated to the world by men of science, who are studying the revelations of God's Book of Nature. That all mental operations, even consciousness itself, are dependent upon the blood supplied to the brain, is a proven fact. The investigations of such physiologists as Schroeder van der Kolk, and others, whose authority in the medical world is unquestioned, are proving to us the exact alteration of physical structure upon which mental aberration depends. They have shown most clearly that "the brains of patients who die insane, idiotic, or imbecile, give evidence, on microscopic examination, of diseased conditions, sufficient to account for all the symptoms they may have exhibited."

In a recent protracted investigation before a committee of the Houses of Parliament, the fact was recognized that intemperance, immorally yielded to at first, at last produces a condition of the physical system in which the patient is practically, in that direction, no longer a moral agent. He is physically unable to resist, and must be removed from the temptation and cared for in Sanitaria or elsewhere, until his physical powers are sufficiently recovered that he may be able to do right. All these investigations, of an earnestly enquiring age, in reality confirm the teachings of God's Word, which in this is still, as it ever has been, in advance of scientific research; for the same Almighty One, who has given us the written word, sustains and upholds all nature by the word of His power.

Is it not then high time no longer to declaim against materialism, but candidly to investigate the records of the Bible, and to place your interpretation of that Divine Book where advancing science can no longer attack it. The threatened contest cannot be long delayed; its result cannot be doubtful. As the church has been obliged to give up her position with regard to the revolution of the earth upon its axis, though for a time she might close the mouth of the astronomer who first proclaimed it; as she has been obliged to give up her interpretation of the six days of creation, but to find that geology and the Bible were in full accord: so in this question of the material nature of the soul, which the Bible with hundred tongues proclaims, the church, if she does not previously recognize it, 'will be

compelled to accept the truth from men of science. She has now the opportunity to grasp and wield those weapons which the .advancing hosts of infidelity will otherwise use against her. It is sad, very sad, that the cause of human salvation must suffer from the mistakes of its professed supporters.

Upon the committee, English and American, for the revision of the Scriptures, a great responsibility rests: let not Christians forget to pray for them! They have a rare opportunity offered them to serve the cause of God and humanity, by giving us a literal interpretation of the Divine records; so pruning from our English version the errors which the ignorance and superstition of the dark ages have engrafted upon it. To this end they possess an exacter knowledge of Hebrew and Greek, a fuller number of trustworthy manuscripts, and more general knowledge. It is their bounden duty thoroughly to investigate these matters, and conscientiously, without fear or favour, to give us the exact truth as it is in the original.

May the Spirit of all Truth help them to discharge the high trust committed to them; that not only Christ's people now, but "in that day" the great Judge Himself may say to them, "Well done!"

PART 5

THE SOUL AND ITS PARTS

If the soul of man be the human organism, as we claim the Scriptures teach, then the various organs, which make up the organism, are parts of the soul; and, if so, then the Bible should thus speak of them.

It should associate the whole and its parts, assigning like attributes to each; and sometimes, by a true synecdoche, it should put a part for the whole, declaring of that part what is true of the whole.

This is just what the Bible does, though our translators, apparently puzzled with such language, have not always made evident that which the original expresses.

We select a few of many examples.

Genesis 49:6: Jacob says, "O my soul, come not thou into their secret: unto their assembly, my liver [English Version 'mine honour'], be not thou united."

Psalms 16:9: "My heart is glad, my liver [English Version 'glory!'] rejoices, my flesh also shall rest in hope." Psalm 108:1 "My heart is fixed. Awake up, my glory."

Psalms 109:1: "O God, my heart is fixed; I will sing and [Hebrews] my liver [English Version 'glory'] shall give praise."

Psalms 7:5: "Let him persecute [Hebrew: 'pursue'] my soul and take it, let him tread down my life, and lay my liver [English Version 'honour'] in the dust."

Lamentations 2:11 "Mine eyes fail, my bowels are troubled, my liver [sp English Version] is poured upon the earth."

Psalms 31: 9: "Mine eye is consumed with grief, yea my soul and my belly — are consumed." Proverbs 13: 25: "The just eats to the satisfying of his soul; but the belly of the wicked shall want." Ezekiel 7:19: "They shall not satisfy their souls, nor fill their bowels."

Psalms 40:8: "Thy law is [margin] in the midst of my bowels."

Jeremiah 31:33: "I will put my law in their [Hebrews] bowels [English Version 'inward parts'], and write it in their hearts."

Proverbs 22:18: "For it is a pleasant thing if thou keep them [words of wisdom, verse 17] in thy belly." — so the margin, English Version text, "within thee."

John 7:38: "Jesus cried, saying, He that believeth on me, as the Scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water."

Proverbs 20:30: “So stripes [cleanse away evil from] the inward parts of the belly.” Job 32:18: “The spirit of my belly [marginal reading] constrains me.”

Philemon 1:7: Paul writes, “The bowels of the saints are refreshed by thee, brother.”

Philemon 1:12: “Therefore receive him, that is my own bowels Here Paul uses the expression “my own bowels” as standing for the whole organization, his soul, himself; he says in effect, “receive him as myself.”

Psalms 16:7: “My kidneys [English Version ‘reins’] instruct me in the night season.”

Jeremiah 17:2: “Thou art near in their mouth, and far from their kidneys,” — English Version “reins.”

Jeremiah 17:10: “I, the Lord, search the heart, I try the kidneys,”— English Version “reins.” Revelation 2:23: “I am he that searches the kidneys [English Version ‘reins’] and hearts.”

Mark 12:29, 30: “Jesus answered, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart and with all thy soul and with all thy mind and with all thy strength.” What is this but a cumulative form of expression, where the whole and one or more of its parts are brought together, as in legal phrase, to cover the whole ground!

Plainly then, throughout the Bible, the various bodily organs, the liver, the heart, the kidneys, the bowels or viscera, those organs controlled by a special nervous system, the Great Sympathetic which presides over “organic life,” are put for the soul, or associated with it, as being allied in their operation. This mode of speech has, at the present day, in great measure passed away; and yet, notwithstanding the inroads of philosophical ideas during centuries past, we find that in respect of one of these organs, the heart, this usage, in popular speech still holds good; and traces of the same are still apparent in our not uncommon use of the words “spleen” and “bile.”

It may be objected that this is the mode of speech of a ruder age, when the true (philosophical?) conception of man’s spiritual composition was not universally accepted as now. On the other hand, is it not more just to say that, like the Assyrian and Egyptian traditions of the Cherubim and the Sacred Tree, it is the relic of a still earlier age, when God communed with man face to face? It is quite the fashion in our day to speak of the crude ideas concerning God and man’s destiny which prevailed even among God’s people up to the Christian era. We flippantly say, the truth was never revealed to them. How do we know that? How do we know what communications of His will God may have made in those earlier days of personal intercourse? Even the heathen once knew more than we are apt to imagine; for Paul says (Romans 1:21, 28): “When they knew God, they did not like to retain God in their knowledge.” This prevalent decrying of the early revelations of the Old Testament because we cannot make them harmonize with our present theories, is a grievous sin.

It dishonours not only God’s Word, but the Author of revelation Himself. We cannot gainsay the fact that the use of the language we are discussing is that of our only repository of spiritual truth. It is found in the New and Old Testaments alike, and is indeed the language of the Creator Himself, as recorded in Jeremiah 32:41: “I will plant them in this land assuredly, with my whole heart and my whole soul.”

PART 6

HEBREW: SHEOL, GREEK: HADES, THE GRAVE.

Very few of our readers are aware of the extent to which they have been misled, by the liberty our English translators have taken with the- Hebrew word “Sheol.” the majority of instances, they correctly render it the grave, but very often, apparently to favour the idea that the Scriptures teach the orthodox hell, they render it hell. Such however is NOT the meaning of the word.

There is but one rational way to decide this question. How does Bible usage define the word. Here are the facts; let each judge for himself.

Moses, the earliest of Biblical writers, uses “Sheol” seven times only. The first six times he unquestionably means by it the grave: would he, or any other writer, the next time he uses the same word, give to it a totally different meaning? Yet the seventh time, our translators assume to change the meaning of the word, by substituting “hell” for the “grave!” Here are the instances:

Genesis 37:35: Jacob said, “I will go down into Sheol [English Version ‘the grave’], unto my son, mourning.” Genesis 42:38: “Then shall ye bring down my grey hairs with sorrow to Sheol,” — English Version “the grave.” Genesis 44:29: “My grey hairs with sorrow to Sheol,”— English Version “the grave.”

Genesis 44:31: “His grey hairs to Sheol,” — English Version “the grave.”

Numbers 16:30: “If the earth open her mouth and swallow them up, and they go down quick [alive] into Sheol,”— English Version “the pit.”

Numbers 16:33: “They went down alive into Sheol,” — English Version “the pit.”

Deuteronomy 32:22: “For a fire is kindled in my anger, and shall bum into the lowest Sheol [English Version ‘hell’], and shall consume the earth with her increase, And set on fire the foundations of the mountains.”

In Genesis, it would hardly do to make Jacob say he would go down to hell; or for his sons to say to it of him. In the passage from Numbers, if one were to translate Sheol, hell, he must accept the inference that these wicked men went into that hell bodily, they actually went down there “alive,” we are told. So Deuteronomy 32:22 was the only chance, for the benefit of an English reader, to get the word hell into the books of the law. And in this instance it is sadly out of place with the context, and sadly at variance with present orthodox ideas; for the Lord is speaking of physical fire, which shall consume the earth and the foundations of the mountains; as is also foretold in 2 Peter 3:10.

“Sheol” next occurs in 1 Samuel 2:6: “The Lord kills and makes alive: he brings down to Sheol [English Version ‘the grave’], and brings up.” The two parts of the verse express in different language the same thought as required by the parallelism of Hebrew poetry,

2 Samuel 22:6: “The sorrows [margin, Hebrews cords] of Sheol [English Version ‘hell’] compassed me about; the snares of death prevented me.” Here the parallelism calls for “the cords of the grave” to correspond with the “snares of death.”

1 Kings 2:9: “His hoar head bring thou down to Sheol,”— English Version “the grave.”

Job 7:9: “Goes down to Sheol,”— English Version “the grave.”

Job 14:13: “O that thou would hide me in shoe.”— English Version “the grave.”

Job 17:13: “Sheol [English Version the grave] is my house; I have made my bed in darkness.”

Job 16:13: “Sheol”— English Version “the grave.”

Job 24:19: ”Sheol,”— English Version “the grave.”

But it were impossible to give all the instances of the use of “Sheol,” as thus far, consecutively. It will be observed in those above quoted, that evidently “the grave” is the correct rendering. And we may believe our translators would have thus rendered it in every instance, but for their desire to find some apparent support for the orthodox theory of hell. We will give a few more examples:

Psalms 139: 8, is a familiar passage: “If I make my bed in Sheol,” — English Version “hell;” properly, the grave, the bed in which we sleep till the resurrection mom. Compare Job 17:13, above quoted, where the two parallel clauses express the same idea.

Proverbs 7:27: “Her house is the way to Sheol [the grave, English Version: ‘hell’], going down to the chambers of death.” A correct rendering preserves the exact parallelism, “the grave” answering to “chambers of death.”

In Ezekiel, chapter 31, the text itself demonstrates the true meaning of “Sheol,” and the inconsistent rendering of our translators. Verses 3 to 12, the Lord compares the Assyrian monarch to a cedar tree in Lebanon, and his fall to the fall of this mighty tree. Verse 14, we read of other kings — styled “trees by the waters,” — “they are all delivered unto death, to the nether [lower] parts of the earth,

in the midst of the children of men, with them that go down to the pit.” Verse 15, of the Assyrian: “Thus saith the Lord God, in the day that he went down into Sheol [E English Version ‘the grave’], I caused a mourning. I caused Lebanon to mourn for him, and all the trees of the field [i.e. other mighty men] fainted for him.” Verse 16: “I made the nations to shake at the sound of his fall when I cast him down to Sheol [English Version ‘hell’] “with them that descend into the pit, and all the trees of Eden shall be comforted in the nether parts of the earth. They [in the nether parts of the earth, mark you] went down into Sheol [English Version ‘hell’] with him.” Here our translators, in rendering “Sheol” as it occurs in two consecutive verses and in reference to the same act in one case by “the grave,” in the next instance “hell,” have unmistakably used these two words as synonymous terms!

In this connection read Ezekiel 32:18 and 32:21 “Son of Man, wail for the multitude of Egypt, and cast them down unto the nether parts of the earth, unto them that go down to the pit. The strong among the mighty shall speak to him out of the midst of Sheol [the grave, English Version ‘hell’]; they are gone down, they lie uncircumcised, slain with the sword;” that is, they he dead in the grave.

In these two extracts from Ezekiel, plainly Sheol is located in the nether (lower or under) parts of the earth: those delivered unto death, are delivered “to the lower parts of the earth:” those in Sheol, “gone down to the pit,” are in the lower parts of the earth. How do we understand this? We perceive that Sheol means not the separate grave of each individual, a different Hebrew word expresses that thought; but that it is a general term for the state of all the dead whether they be in careful sepulchre, or, as Jacob imagined of Joseph, they are torn and devoured by beasts of the field. And this general state of the dead, in the Oriental imagination, was conceived of as a vast pit in the darkness of the lower parts of the earth; a vast burying place, or more objectively cemetery (Greek: Koimeterion, sleeping chamber), beneath the homes of the living, where are gathered the dead of all times past, who, slain by the sword (Ezekiel 32:21), or dying in their beds (Isaiah 14:2), lies the mummied forms, stored away “in the sides of the pit.” Isaiah 14:15.

With this conception agrees the language of Isaiah, 14: 9-11: “Sheol [the grave, English Version ‘hell’] from beneath is moved for thee to meet thee at thy coming; it stirs up the [sleeping] dead for thee. All they shall speak and say unto thee. Art thou also become as we? Art thou become like unto us? The worm is spread under thee, and the worms cover thee.” Surely, these speaking are not living ones in an orthodox hell; we have here beyond question a figurative description of the grave, where, in the bold imagery of Oriental poetry, “the dead” are presented speaking one to the other, covered with worms. Precisely the same imagery Christ makes use of in the parable of Dives and Lazarus, where He represents, the dead as speaking to each other. And let the reader not forget that the Old Testament, comparatively contemned and certainly neglected now-a-days, was the Bible Christ studied, and which He enjoined His hearers to search, whose language was to Him as household words.

Not only the thought, but this language of the Old Testament, we find in the New. In Matthew 12:40, Christ speaks of His future three days’ rest in the grave as being “in the heart of the earth.” And Paul (Ephesians 4:9, 10) thus refers to this same rest of our Lord in the grave: “Now that he ascended, what is it but that He also descended first into the lower parts of the earth: He that descended is the same that ascended up far above all things.”

We are now prepared to understand one more mistranslated, mis-understood passage. Psalm 9: 17: “The wicked shall be turned into hell, and all the nations that forget God.” The word translated “hell” is “Sheol,” which we have learned means the grave: “turned” is in the Hebrew, “returned” (see Lange on Psalms). And so this passage, specially relied upon to teach Sabbath-school children the doctrine of the orthodox hell, in reality sets forth the truth that, after their final judgment, the second death shall return the wicked to that Sheol, or grave, whence there is never again “a coming forth.”

PART 7

HADES

In the Septuagint (the Jewish translation into Greek of the Old Testament), the Hebrew “Sheol” is, with scarce an exception, rendered by the Greek “Hades.” We have learned from the Old Testament that “Sheol” means the grave, and the Septuagint is authority for us and the English translators that “Hades” is its equivalent. Now let us see how our English version of the New Testament translates “Hades.”

Here are all the instances of its use:

Matthew 11: 23: “Thou Capernaum, which art exalted to heaven, shall be brought down to Hades,” the grave, English Version “hell.” This prophecy has already been fulfilled in so bringing that city to destruction, to the grave, that the place of its sepulchre can scarce be determined.

Luke 10:15: Same as above.

Matthew 16:18: “On this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades [the grave, English Version ‘hell’] shall not prevail against it.” How do we understand this? Let Scripture interpret itself. In Job 38: 17, Psalm 110:13, and 107:18, we find a similar expression, “the gates of death,” which the Septuagint renders “gates of Hades.” In Revelation 1:18, Jesus tells John that He was dead, but is now alive forever more, and so His people, dead or dying, shall likewise be made alive forever more; for He has the keys of death and of Hades. This is the word of Christ (John 14:19): “Because I live, ye shall live also.” The grave shall not hold His people, shall not prevail against His church; for at the “appointed time” (Job 14:13, 14) He will open the gates of Hades, and from their graves bring forth His people to glory. As we read in Hosea 13:14: “I will ransom them from the power of the grave.” And in Ezekiel 37:12, 14: “Thus saith the Lord God, Behold my people, I will open your graves and cause you to come up out of your graves. . . . And ye shall know that I am the Lord when I have opened your graves, O my people, and brought you up out of your graves, and put my spirit in you, and ye shall live.”

Luke 16:21: “The rich man died, and was buried, and in Hades [the grave, English Version ‘hell’] he lifted up his eyes, being in torment,”— a poetic figure like that quoted above from Ezekiel, chapter 32, where the dead in Hades are represented as “comforted in the nether parts of the earth “over the fall of the mighty one who had brought them to ruin. (See page 103.)

No one questions but that those Old Testament passages are highly-wrought, dramatic representations of how dead ones might be supposed to feel and to speak. Is this passage in Luke anything different? To interpret it in like manner is certainly strictly following the rule by which all written language should be interpreted: that it is always to be taken literally, except as proved to be figurative by a statement to that effect, or by the obvious circumstances of the case. In Ezekiel and Isaiah, dead persons, those lying shin move and speak; that then is figurative. Precisely so in Luke: it is dead persons in Hades, the grave, who speak; then that is likewise figurative. To say, as is universally done, that one part of the narrative, “being in torment,” is literal, while other parts, the preceding clause of the same sentence even, and other allusions to bodily members, must be figurative, because disembodied spirits cannot have bodily parts, is but begging the very question at issue; it is simply assuming the very point which this parable is especially relied upon to prove.

Besides, if that one part is to be taken as a literal statement, that Dives before the resurrection suffers the penalty of his sins in an orthodox hell, then Christ utters a parable which is a direct contradiction of His own words, when he says (Revelation 22:12): “I come quickly; and my reward is with me [i.e. in my keeping], to give to every man as his work shall be.” And that time of recompense He elsewhere tells us, is at the resurrection (Luke 14: 14), and so the apostolic writers ever refer to it. Paul tells us (2 Corinthians 5:10): “We must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that every one may receive the things done in the body.”

Will orthodoxy locate a judgment at the hour of each one’s death? Christ says, Matthew 25, it is “when the Son of Man shall come in His glory;” and the expressed surprise of righteous and wicked alike, at the words of the Judge at that time, evidently declare there has been no previous judgment.

Certainly the unbiased reader must confess that our rendering of the parable is alone consistent with the accepted method of interpreting language and with the rest of Scripture; while the popular interpretation of it, though so general, is in reality a piece of special pleading, and contradicts the Scriptures.

Acts 2:27: “Thou wilt not leave my soul in Hades [the grave, English Version ‘hell’]; neither wilt Thou suffer Thy Holy One to see corruption;” — quoted direct from Psalm 16: 10, in which “Sheol” is the Hebrew for “Hades.” Read, with this, Acts 13: 36, 37: “For David, after he had served his own generation by the will of God, fell on sleep, and was laid unto his fathers, and saw corruption; but He, whom God raised again saw no corruption.”

Revelation 1:18: “I have the keys of Hades and of death,”— English Version “hell.”

Revelation 6: 8: “A pale horse, and his name that sat on him was Death, and Hades [the grave, personified, English Version ‘hell’] followed after.”

Revelation 20: 13: “Death and Hades delivered up the dead who were in them.” Hades here is plainly the grave; for what Hades delivered up was the same that, in this verse, the sea delivered up, “tons nekrous,” the dead bodies which were in them. Our translators give “hell” in the text, “the grave” in the margin.

But in the next verse they omit this important marginal correction: “Death and Hades [English Version ‘hell’] were cast into the lake of fire.” This verse is the fulfilment of the prophecy in Hosea 13: 14: “O grave, I will be thy destruction;” where the Hebrew “Sheol” [the grave], is in the Septuagint Greeks “Hades.”

But one instance more of the use of the word “Hades” in the New Testament remains, 1 Corinthians 15:55. Here, as elsewhere in both Testaments, Death and Hades are associated and personified. But the whole line of argument in this chapter so turns upon a

resurrection from the grave that our translators could not venture here to render Hades, hell. So we have it correctly: “O death, where is thy sting? Grave [Hades], where is thy victory?” Yet, as if to relieve themselves a little under this pressure, in the margin they insert “hell.”

PART 8

GEHENNA OR HELL

This is the Greek word, invariably and properly translated “hell.” It is the same as Tophet of the Old Testament, both names of the Valley of Hinnom, near Jerusalem, whose fires were ever burning to destroy the refuse of that city; and, hence, it is used as an appropriate name for the final burning at the end of the world. Our Saviour speaks of it in Matthew 5:22, 18:9, as the “Gehenna tou puros,” the Gehenna OF FIRE. And again He explains it in Mark 9:43, 44 “hell” [“Gehenna”], “the unquenchable fire.” We have the idea, though not the word, in Revelation 20:14: “the lake of fire.” Into this, we are there informed, is Hades cast, to be destroyed; into that fire, foretold in Deuteronomy 32:20, “which shall burn unto the lowest Sheol [to the bottom of the grave], and shall consume the earth with her increase, and set on fire the foundations of the mountains.” It is also spoken of in Revelation 21:8, as “the lake that bums with fire and brimstone.”

Isaiah, chap, 30:33, thus speaks of this hell, this Gehenna of fire: “Tophet is ordained of old; for the king it is prepared: He hath made it deep and large; the pile thereof is fire and much wood: the breath of the Lord like a stream of brimstone doth kindle it.” And its purpose is still further unfolded in Malachi 4:1: “For behold, the day cometh that shall burn as an oven, and the proud, yea, and all that do wickedly shall be stubble and the day that cometh shall bum them up, saith the Lord of Hosts that it leave them neither root nor branch.”

As an illustration of this fiery doom, we have held out to us by Jude the fate of Sodom and Gomorrah and the cities about them, which “are set forth for an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire.” As our Lord tells us in Luke 17: 29, 30: “The same day that Lot went out of Sodom, it rained fire and brimstone from heaven, and destroyed them all. Even thus shall it be in the day when the Son of Man is revealed.” And in Matthew 13:40, He declares: “As the tares [by which are represented the wicked] are gathered and burned in the fire, so shall it be in the end of the world.” And Peter explicitly declares (2 Peter 3: 7): “The heavens and the earth which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the Day of Judgment and Destruction of ungodly men.”

PART 9

THE INTERMEDIATE STATE

It cannot be denied that the Old Testament represents the Intermediate State, or the interval between death and the Judgment, as an unconscious sleep, where “the wicked cease from troubling and the weary be at rest.” But there are Christians, no doubt sincere, who believe that the Old Testament teachings are, on this point, unreliable. They will accept only what the New Testament shall say on this question. Let us then examine the latter.

We shall find that both Christ and His Apostles make free use of the BIBLICAL phraseology of their day, when speaking of the death of believers. For example, John 11:1, Jesus says, “Our friend Lazarus [literal Greek] has fallen asleep; but I go that I may awake him out of sleep” Certainly He, who spake as man never spake, was seeking not to perplex His disciples with a verbal ambiguity, but to enforce a truth. He was teaching them and us that death is a sleep; and we may trust Him in this matter: for His loving heart has assured us, “If it were not so, I would have told you.” With this agrees His language, John 9: 4: “The night cometh, when no man can work.” And so we understand why Lazarus, so long dead, had no revelations to make of a “spirit world”: he had nothing to tell; his sleep had been an undisturbed, a dreamless one, until Christ’s voice aroused him, as in the Resurrection it will arouse all the sleeping dead. John 5: 28.

Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist, uses similar language (Matthew 27: 52): “Many bodies of the saints, who slept, arose.”

Luke, as the writer of Acts, says (Acts 7:60) of Stephen’s death: “He fell asleep. And devout men carried Stephen to his burial.” In recording Paul’s speech at Antioch, in Pisidia, he uses the same language (Acts 13:36): “David fell on sleep.”

Such seems a favourite mode of expression with Paul: for example —

1 Corinthians 7:39: “If her husband be dead [Greek same as above, ‘should fall asleep’] she is at liberty to be married.”

1 Corinthians 11:30: “For this cause, many are weak and sickly among you, and many sleep, — that is, have died.”

1 Corinthians 15:6: “The greater part remain unto this present, but some are fallen asleep.”

1 Corinthians 15:18: “Then they also, that are fallen asleep in Christ, are perished.”

1 Corinthians 15:20: “Christ is risen from the dead, a first fruits of them that slept.”

1 Corinthians 15:51: “Behold I show you a mystery; we shall not all sleep.”

1 Thessalonians 4:13: “But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them that are asleep.”

“Them that are asleep,” — did not Paul mean what he wrote? You say, “It is their bodies alone that sleep.” Will you stand by that interpretation? Then you assert that the body is the personality; for it is that, then, which is referred to by the personal pronoun, “them”!

1 Thessalonians 4:14: “For, if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them that sleep in Jesus will God bring with Him.” That is, as Jesus was brought from death, so will God bring them.”

1 Thessalonians 4:15: “For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we, who are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord, shall not prevent [Greek: “phthano,” come before] them that are asleep.” — those still living shall not come before, in other words, shall not leave behind them that have died.

1 Thessalonians 4:16: “For the Lord Himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the trump of God, and the dead in Christ shall rise first. Then we who are alive and remain,” — THEN, and not till then, does the promised change occur, and “this mortal put on immortality.” These Thessalonian Christians, being in much tribulation, were eagerly “waiting for” (1 Thessalonians 1:10) their Lord from heaven. To quiet their anxiety for friends already dead, no longer waiting with them, Paul assures them from the Lord, that such, when the Lord does come, will not be left behind. “Wherefore [he adds], comfort one another with these words.” How could they have had any such anxiety about these dear friends, if Paul had ever taught them that such were still alive and in God’s presence? And how different this word of comfort, as also Christ’s to Martha, “Thy brother shall rise again,” shall live again, from what is usually administered to the bereaved in our day! Paul, who could refer to “visions and revelations of the Lord” (2 Corinthians 12:1), has never one direct word of the present conscious felicity of sleeping saints. In fact he explicitly contradicts this error. He declares that, for himself (2 Timothy 1:5: 8) and for others, the time of reward, the crown of blessedness and glory, is at the day of our Lord’s appearing. He tells us it is “at the revelation of Jesus Christ” (2 Thessalonians 1:7), “at His appearing and His kingdom” (2 Timothy 4:1). With his statements agree those of Peter (1 Peter 5:4), and of John (1 John 3:2). They could fall asleep in peace, being “persuaded that He is able to keep that which they had committed to Him against that day/” 2 Timothy 1:12.

Peter also, in his epistles, speaks of the Intermediate State as a sleep (2 Peter 3:4): “For since the fathers fell asleep.”

Surely, these examples demonstrate the New Testament thought and usage in reference to the state of the dead in Christ.

But we are further assured that the writers of the New Testament viewed such death as a sleep, from noticing one of the verbs they used to denote the act of bringing dead ones back to life. For this, two verbs are used by them, “egeiro” and “anastemi,” in exactly rendered by the same word in our Version. The primary and usual meaning in the Greek classics of the former, “egeiro,” is to awaken, to arouse. It is thus used Matthew 8:25: “And His disciples came to him and awoke Him, saying, Lord save us, we perish.”

In a secondary, evidently metaphorical sense, it less frequently denotes to lift up, to raise, as in John 2:19, 20: “Jesus said, Destroy this temple, and in three days I will awaken it,” — “egeiro,” in the future, evidently intended to be taken in its primary sense, though the English Version gives the secondary meaning, “will raise it up.” In their reply, the Jews mistake the temple spoken of, and use “egeiro” in its secondary sense. “Then said the Jews, Forty and six years was this temple in building, and wilt thou awaken it [that is, raise it, Greek ‘egeiro,’ English Version ‘rear it up’] in three days?” See by contrast the different verb in the report of the false witnesses (Matthew 26:61): “This one said, I am able to destroy the temple of God, and build it [‘oikodomeo,’ literally to build a house] in three days.”

The New Testament distinction between the two verbs, “egeiro,” to rouse, and “anastemi,” to raise — one having reference to the first step of awaking, arousing; the second looking to the completed act of raising, or being raised up — is well shown by Christ’s language in Mark 12:25, 26: “When they shall rise [‘anastemi’] from the dead they neither marry nor are given in marriage; but are as the angels in heaven.”

In this verse, the reference is evidently to the life in a completed resurrection state. In the next verse, where no reference is had to the activities of their future life, the question is simply whether they are to be awakened at all; the verb changes in the Greek, though unfortunately not in the English translation: “And as touching the dead that they m«,” — “egeiro,” lit, are awakened. And such future awakening Christ proves solely on this conception of death, as we have shown on page 25.

So, in the account given in Mark 5:41, of the bringing Jairus’ daughter to life again, we read: “And he took the damsel by the hand, and said unto her, Tahtha cumi, which is, being interpreted. Damsel, I say unto thee [Greek, ‘egeire’], awake. And immediately the damsel arose [Mark change of verb in the original; not ‘egeiro,’ but ‘anistemi,’ expressing action beyond that of simple awaking], and walked; for she was of the age of twelve years.”

When life was restored to the widow’s son of Nain (Luke 7:14), the word was: “Young man, I say unto thee [Greek, pass, of ‘egeiro’], be awakened! And in the 22nd verse of the same chapter, when Christ desired to call attention to the fact that life was given to the dead, He says: “Go, tell John that the dead [Greek: ‘egeirontai’] are awakened,” — are roused into life.

And so likewise in the 15th of 1st Corinthians, where Paul’s argument is not of a future resurrection life, but whether there be any resurrection, any awakening, at all, the Apostle invariably uses “egeiro,” not “anastemi.” For instance, verse 35, the inquiry is: “How are the dead awakened? And with what body do they come?” Surely, had our translators rendered “egeiro,” when referring to the state of death, by this its New Testament sense of awaken, the common error on this question would have been much less prevalent.

Thus we see that not alone in the Old but in the New Testament, the Intermediate State is regarded as a sleep; and in pursuance of this idea, the first bringing back the sleeper to consciousness and life is appropriately termed awakening him.

The New Testament explanation of the Old Testament types carries with it the same thought: Christ’s sleeping saints cannot yet be with him. In the 11th chapter of Hebrews we read: “Into the tabernacle, called the holiest of all, went the high priest ALONE every year.” Turning to Leviticus 16:17, we find God had expressly commanded: “There shall be no man in the tabernacle when he goes in to make an atonement in the holy place. Here is the type: now for its fulfilment. We learn from Hebrews 11:24, that thus was foreshadowed the mediatorial work of Christ: “For Christ is not entered into the holy places made with hands, which are the figures of the true but into heaven itself; now to appear in the presence of God FOR US.”

Christ is now our high priest, now at the right hand of the Majesty in the heavens. Hebrews 7:24, to 8:2. He has gone there, as went the high priest into the earthly tabernacle, “not without blood,” but it is “His own.” And so the other conditions of the type must be fulfilled in Him. He must go there ALONE. He declared to Nicodemus, “No man hath ascended up to heaven.” Even to His disciples He said, as he had to the Jews, “Whither I go, ye cannot come.” But soon after He adds: “Let not your heart be troubled. I will come again and receive you unto Myself.” From the tabernacle of old, his prescribed task completed, came forth the Jewish high priest to bless the people waiting outside.

And unto them that look for Him, shall Christ appear the second time, without sin [a sin offering], unto salvation.” (Hebrews 11:28): that salvation (1 Peter 1:5) “ready to be revealed in the last time.” As a high priest He is now gone from the sight of His people. He has entered within the veil. He will yet again come, a King to reign; and whether, in that day we have been “sleeping” in dust, or be “alive and remain unto His coming,” our joyful hearts shall then exclaim; “Lo, this is our God; we have waited for Him: this is the Lord; we have waited for Him, we will be glad, and rejoice in His salvation!” Isaiah 29:9.

We can now better understand Philippians 1: 23: “Having the strong desire for the departing, AND the being with Christ; for this is far better.”

It must be perceived that the conscious felicity of the righteous between death and the judgment should be positively proved, not merely inferred, ere the popular theology may think to support itself by its interpretation of Philippians 1:23. For in reality the burden of proof rests not upon those who dissent from accepted theology, but upon those who reject or explain away what we have now seen to be the concurrent testimony of Bible writers; for instance, Paul’s own statement of the dead (1 Thessalonians 4:15): “Them that be asleep.” Are they sleeping in Paradise?

Orthodoxy recognizes two sets of believers. The one hold to an intermediate state of happiness in Hades. Such are utterly debarred from the popular acceptance of Philippians 1:23; for we have shown (page 19) that Christ’s words to Mary Magdalene (John 20:17) prove that he is not now in Hades any more than he is now on earth. To such the angel well replies: “Why seek ye the living among the dead?” While the others, denying a separate intermediate state and assuming a direct translation of disembodied spirits to heaven, are contradicted by Peter’s declaration (Acts 2:34): “For David is not ascended into the heavens;” and also the statement of Christ (John 20:17), that at His death he did not go to heaven; and His previous statement (John 2:13), that no man had ascended to heaven.

If then Philippians 1:23 cannot be understood on the supposition that believers are with Christ immediately upon death, what does it mean? Simply, that Paul there speaks of his longing for the special hope of the Christian; for “to analusai,” the being cut loose, the

departing from this present evil world; “kai sun Christo einai,” and with Christ to be, when He shall come again. For to him (to the believer), that time is, as the Bible teaches, the next conscious instant after death; and so these two events are appropriately conjoined in the passage before us.

One point yet remains unsolved. It may be asked, “Where on this view do you put Enoch and Elijah who did not see death?” The full answer to that question has not been revealed to us. No better reply can be given than the before-quoted words of good old Tyndale: “What God doeth with them that shall we know when we come to them.” This much only do we certainly know, that they cannot be in heaven; for Jesus told Nicodemus: “No man hath ascended up to heaven.”

PART 10

THE RESURRECTION OF THE WICKED

How the heart of the Christian, who believes “The Bible Doctrine of the Soul,” leaps up to meet that word, the resurrection! It is the time of reward! Then at last the absent Saviour makes good His word, and “comes again to receive us unto Himself;” and then we see Him “whom not having seen we love.” Then are re-united all who are Christ’s, at His coming; the Christian friends whom we have lost or must leave, the faithful workers for Christ in all the ages past, are then awakened from their long sleep. Though dying centuries ago, it is to their consciousness, as to ours, but the moment after death, and we all rise together in the morning!

Christ’s resurrection is the pledge and type of our resurrection. Jesus says: “I was dead, and behold I am living forever more;” and, “Because I live, ye shall live also.” Paul refers to it as the assurance of all our hopes for the future. 1 Corinthians 15:17, 18: “If Christ be not raised [Greek: ‘ouk egegertai,’ has not been awakened], then those having fallen asleep in Christ axe perished:” that is, they will never be awakened. No awakening to life again, no future re-living, without a resurrection! So Paul preached, and so we believe.

Unfortunately, the translators of our English Version, very likely through ignorance, have concealed many Old Testament allusions to this great event. In “The prayer of Moses, the man of God,” Psalm 90, after dwelling upon the greatness of God’s power, and the eternity of His years, as contrasted with our feebleness and our frailty, how tame and flat our English rendering: “O satisfy us early with Thy mercy!” As if we would pitifully entreat the Almighty not to continue sending trouble upon us, but to give us soon some relief before we die! But the vision of the inspired poet reached far beyond. Beyond, from this lifetime of sin and sorrow, his eager gaze reaches forward to that promised dawn of glory and immortality, whose radiance can gild even the dark clouds of trouble surrounding him. “satisfy us [he prays] with Thy mercy IN THE MORNING; that we may rejoice and be glad all our days.” In the morning, when satisfied, we “awake in Thy likeness!”

That the Hebrew here, “in the morning,” denotes the resurrection mom, Lange demonstrates in his “Introductory Notes to Genesis,” where he shows this expression to be found “in the earliest language and thinking of our race.” He quotes from ancient Arabian writers, and from one who represents a beggar, beautifully saying of the donor who bestows a garment to cover his nakedness: “He shall be covered to-day with my praise, and in the morning shall be enrobed with the silk of Paradise.”

So the Psalmist exultingly declares (Psalm 30:6): “Joy Cometh in the morning” And again (Psalm 46:5, margin):” God shall help her [His church], when the morning appears!“ Paul, looking forward to that morning, says of himself (Philippians 3:11-14): “If by any means I might attain unto the resurrection of the dead. Not as though I had already attained, or were already perfect; but ... I press toward the Mark for the prize.” And One, who Himself was to die and revive, when standing beside the recent grave of him He loved, uttered that word of comfort which resounds through the ages till He come again: “I AM THE RESURRECTION AND THE LIFE.”

What He hath thus joined together, let not man presume to put asunder! It was by His resurrection that Jesus actually brought to light life and immortality. Mortal before. He is now immortal: as He says, “I was dead; and behold, I am alive forever more.” And so of the followers of Jesus — at the resurrection this mortal puts on immortality, and eternal life is ours. Thanks be unto God for His unspeakable gift!

* Among them, one of no less talent and attainment than Hon. O. S. Halstead, Ex-Chancellor of the State of New Jersey, to whose scholarly work on “The Theology of the Bible,” the writer is greatly Indebted for the Hebrew translation of many passages in this appendix.

But a question demands consideration: Is there a resurrection of the wicked?

It would hardly seem that the literal Bible student could entertain a question of this. Yet there are ‘some,’ who, fully accepting the Scripture declaration of loss of life as the penalty for sin, seem to be so carried away, by the strength of their reaction from orthodox

errors, that they deny that the wicked will have even a temporary existence again. They believe that the first death is a final ending of all being to them, as to the beasts. But such, while they reject the orthodox method of figuratively explaining away the plain declarations of death for the wicked, inconsistently adopt the same figurative method of explaining away passages which teach a resurrection for the wicked.

Let us look at the Scripture proofs on this question. We learn this truth:

From repeated declarations in the Inspired Word.

Acts 24: 15: Paul says of himself (translated verbatim from the Greek): "A hope having in God, which even they themselves [the Pharisees] expect, a resurrection about to be of dead ones, of just and also of unjust ones." The writer is utterly unable to construe this passage, so as to make the apostle declare this resurrection of both classes to be merely the expectation of the Pharisees. The reference to them in the clause, "which they themselves expect," might be entirely stricken out, and still the construction of the sentence remain the same; "anastasin" (resurrection), in opposition with and defining "elpida," hope.

John 5:28, 29: "The hour is coming in which all that are in the graves shall hear His voice, and shall come forth; they that have done good unto the resurrection of life, and they have done evil into the resurrection of condemnation." It cannot be that of the "all" one part shall literally "hear and come forth," to the resurrection, and the other part figuratively "hear and come forth," by remaining in their graves!

Daniel 12: 2: "Many that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, some to shame [to be felt by themselves] and everlasting contempt," — to be felt by those surviving them.

We learn this truth:

2. From the fact of a second resurrection.

Revelation 20:6: "Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection, on such the second death hath no power."

Revelation 21:8: "But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, . . . and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone ; which is the second death."

In the former verse, the distinctive epithet, "first," unless utterly meaningless, evidently assures a second; while the explicitly stated peculiarity of that first resurrection, that the second death hath no power over those having part in it, convinces us that the second death cannot be a second instalment of redeemed ones; for such, in any case, "shall not be hurt of the second death," Revelation 2:11.

The second verse teaches what is the second death, and that to it the wicked are obnoxious. How it could properly be called a "second" death, unless it be a repetition of the same loss of existence which was the "first" death, we cannot understand; nor again, how any one having once lost existence could lose it a second time, unless it were temporarily restored to him by a resurrection.

This view of a first resurrection finds corroboration in Christ's language, Luke 14: 14, specifying "the resurrection of the just."

And also in the distinction made (in the Greek) between the "anastasis nekron," the resurrection of dead ones, of Acts 17:32, and the "anastasis ek nekron," the resurrection from out dead ones, of Acts 17:2. The former was addressed to Greeks not knowing any resurrection; the latter was addressed to Jews, and is there specified as that "preached through Jesus" — that particular resurrection which He bestows upon His followers, the resurrection of life, of the just, the first resurrection. It was that to which Paul so eagerly aspired (Philippians 3:11): "If by any means I might attain unto the 'ex-anastasis,' the resurrection from out the dead ones."

Again we recognize the resurrection of the wicked:

3. In the description of the final judgment, and statement of who will be there.

Matthew 25:31-46: "When the Son of Man shall come in His glory, before Him shall be gathered all nations, and He shall separate them one from another as a shepherd divides his sheep from his goats. He shall set the sheep on His right hand, but the goats on His left. Then shall the King say unto them on His right hand. Then shall He also say to them on His left hand. . . . Then shall they also answer Him."

"But" it maybe replied, "these thus judged are only those living at that time, together with the raised righteous." Let us then search farther and learn who they are.

2 Corinthians 5:10: “For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.” That this applies to all men, and not Christians only, the next verse shows: “Knowing therefore the terror of the Lord we persuade men” — men then living: and it is belittling this “terror of the Lord,” to suggest, that by suicide, or by a death the moment before the great scene, one might escape it and its consequences.

Romans 14: 10: “We shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ,” — not the Roman Christians only to whom he wrote, but the “all” referred to in the next verse: “ For as I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to Me, and every tongue shall confess to God.”

Revelation 22: 12: Jesus says, He is coming “to give to every man as his work shall be.”

Romans 2: 12, 16; “For as many as have sinned without law, shall also perish without law; and an many as have sinned under law, shall be judged by law. [When?] In the day when God shall judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ.”

In Psalm 11:6, taking the marginal rendering, we read: “Upon the wicked He shall rain quick burning coals, fire and brimstone, and a burning tempest; this shall be the portion of their cup.” This fiery death is plainly for the wicked of all time, who are spoken of without limitation in the Psalm. To meet this doom, they must be raised to life again by Him “who quickens the dead.” Romans 4:17.

•A Bible, with marginal references, is indeed indispensable to the careful English reader; for, where our translators fail in the context to give the exact rendering of the original, they not infrequently supply it in the margin. But we have the explicit declaration that it is not alone the wicked then living who are judged. Revelation 20:13, 15; tells us that the sea gave up its dead, and the grave its dead, and, after judgment, “whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.” Having died once, they thus die again.

We are shut up to this truth:

4. By certain passages of Scripture otherwise u-intelligible.

Matthew 26: 64, Jesus declares to the Sanhedrim: “I say unto you, hereafter shall YE SEE the Son of Man coming in the clouds of heaven.” He was unquestionably speaking to those there before Him; He was directly addressing that wicked council, not their descendants of some far distant age.

Revelation 1:7: “Every eye shall see Him, and they also who pierced Him.” Like the preceding passage, it were here doing inexcusable violence to the language, to pretend that it refers to the descendants of those who compassed the death of our Lord; especially when we remember it was written by one who, as an eye witness of the scene, would recall the personal actors therein. And in Numbers 24:17, Balaam, himself classed among the vilest (2 Peter 2:15), and for his shameful counsel against Israel slain by the sword (Numbers 31: 8, 16), foretells his own resurrection, when in prophetic trance he declares of the coming Star of Jacob: ”I shall see Him, but not now; I shall behold Him, but not nigh,” — or near.

Surely, this is proof on proof! The Bible informs us that the penalty of sin is death. “The soul that sins, it shall die.” The execution of that sentence is set forth in Revelation 21:8; those found guilty of sins there mentioned, having not their names in the Book of Life, have their part in the lake that burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death.” That they may be arraigned and tried before God’s tribunal, there will be a resurrection of the wicked dead. Like him, whose children they are declared to be (John 8:44), and with him, we may believe they are to be loosed for “a little season “ (Revelation 20:3) from the abyss, from silence and darkness; to be returned to “the blackness of darkness forever” (Jude 1:13), when the justice of their second death shall have been made manifest to an assembled universe. They must stand before the Judge.

“Every eye shall see Him, and they also who pierced Him,” with their eyes must behold Him again. But this is not for them a resurrection unto life, but unto condemnation. “There shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth,” said Jesus to the unbelieving Jews, “when YE shall see Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob in the kingdom of God, and you yourselves thrust out.” Lost to them forever, now, is IMMORTALITY, that priceless gift of God’s love! In Gehenna, the lake of fire, they meet a second death. And this punishment of their sin is everlasting, for— THAT DEATH IS ETERNAL!

THE END.

The meaning of the Greek “abyssos,” translated “bottomless pit “ in Revelation 20:8, the apostle explains for us (Romans 10:7): “Say not, Who shall descend into the abyssos, that is, to bring back Christ from the dead,” from the abyss, the state in which are the dead.

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