

The Church is commanded to go into all the world, "preach the gospel to every creature," and to "teach all nations"—not the minutiae of Bible history and doctrine, but the grand "outline," the "form of sound words"—the central, saving truths of the gospel. And then it is added: "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved, and he that believeth not shall be damned!" Skeptics may wince and dispute about the injustice or absurdity of this wondrous promise and this supremely dreadful threat—but there it stands!—sculptured in the very rock of eternal truth! This is the testimony of a single text, and might leave room for doubt in a skeptic's mind. But invoke all the evangelists, all the apostles, and the Lord himself, as witnesses, and you hear from their lips and pen, in a thousand varied forms, the same tremendous truth: "Believe and live!" "Disbelieve and die!"

The need of belief in a creed, then, is proved by the Scripture but the same need is proved by reason, experience, and common sense, for

(13.). *In making a belief in a creed thus vital, by echoing the awful words of our Lord, "he that believeth not shall be damned," we do but announce a principle that finds its perfect parallel in temporal concerns.*

Belief of and in a creed is necessary to self-preservation. Science, physiology, political economy—all human philosophy—have developed principles (or creeds) which men must believe or die! Science has found creeds written on the tissues of the human body, written on the human mind, and written on all nature about us, which men must believe or suffer the penalty, physical, intellectual and national.

Belief is a necessity of our nature, and is the first step toward a rescue from every peril. When a man has a disease—deadly, if not cured--the first step toward a cure is to believe he has the disease. He must believe or die!