

Hundreds in our great cities grow up in like ignorance of Him. Who, nevertheless, is "The Saviour of all men."

Are these countless millions to perish everlastingly?

Surely, if our God will have all men to be saved: and if God's mercy, to say nothing of His fair-mindedness and justice, endureth forever, these millions, who have had no chance here of learning of Jesus and His Love and His Work for all, will, and must, have a chance of so learning hereafter in the Intermediate Life.

Yes, in all the accessible realms of Hades the Gospel of the Lord Jesus is to-day being preached to them that are dead, that hereafter they may be judged according to men in the flesh, but live according to God in the spirit.

Do you ask how, or by what ministry, is Christ's Gospel being preached to-day in the realms of Hades?

Surely that is not a very difficult question to answer, when we bear in mind that by far the larger part of Christ's Church is now in Paradise.

As from the Church of God on earth go forth to-day the preachers of Christ's Gospel throughout the world, so from the Church of God in Paradise have been going forth for many a century the preachers of the crucified and risen Saviour to all the realms of Hades, which, by God's permission, are accessible to such ministrations.

What our blessed Lord did personally during His own brief visit to Hades, He has been doing ever since, by the varied and ever-increasing ministry of His Church in Paradise.

Only thus, so it seems to me, can you begin to justify those statements of Holy Scripture which affirm that God's desire that all should be saved: and those other statements which announce the endurance, the width, and the vast embrace of God's Mercy.

So far we have been contemplating the need for an educational and therefore progressive state in the Intermediate Life, from its aspect towards God.

(b) Now let us contemplate it in its aspect toward man.

Every faithful child of the Bible and the Church knows that salvation for all is only in Jesus Christ our Saviour. When we pray in the Visitation office for the sick person: