

answer this question. Did your animal appetites ever crave that which does not exist—of which you never heard? It cannot be; for the creator of our bodies is the author of nature. God gave us our passions and appetites for our good; he then gave us his revelation for the regulation of them, to which, if we submit, we shall enjoy a great amount of happiness, even in this vale of tears.

Now, we know that God has made provision for the gratification of our animal wants, and also for the supply of the whole creation—birds, beasts, fishes, and reptiles. Does he have a greater care for our bodies than our souls? Has he made preparation for the wants of all his creatures “from Greenland’s icy mountains to India’s coral strand,” and wholly or in part neglected our souls? Had we no revelation, further than that we must live again after we have “shuffled off this mortal coil,” reason would say there is preparation made for the supply of our spiritual desires. And what does man desire more than every thing else? What is the main spring to noble deeds of daring—why will he cross sea and land in pursuit of various objects—why will he subject himself to every danger and privation and death itself? You answer, in pursuit of honor, wealth, or fame. And why seek for honor, wealth, and fame? We answer, *to satisfy the longings of the spirit after happiness.* The desire for happiness is inseparable with our natures. God has given it to us. Will any dare to say that He created us with it that it might be eternally blasted? Forbid it Heaven!

Our God holds our souls in as high estimation as our bodies. He loves our deathless spirits as well as he does beasts and fishes; if so, then he has made provision for their happiness. “All men,” say you, “are not happy now, nor ever will be in this world, or in the world to come!” What is the reason? Unhesitatingly we answer—because they are *unholy*. And why unholy: because they will not obey God. “Jesus being made perfect, has become the author of eternal salvation to all them that *obey him!*”

Common sense, then, says—the Author of our existence, who has implanted in our souls this longing after immortality, has prepared a way by which we may all attain to it. When we open the blessed volume, Heaven’s richest boon to sinful man, our doubts, if any remain, relative to the goodness of God, immediately vanish on reading, “God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish but have everlasting life; for God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through him might be saved.”

Readers of the Christian, if any of you miss the path to eternal felicity, it will be because you choose the road to misery. If you go to hell, it will be because you choose the paths of sin. If you are unhappy now, it is because you will not take the yoke of Christ and wear it. Heaven has lavished innumerable blessings on you already, and now waits to bestow more.

Disciples of Christ, would you be always happy?—follow the Lord Jesus fully. Aliens from the kingdom of grace, would you rejoice in the love of God? “Repent and be baptised every one of you in