

IV. We reject the Annihilationist view of the threatening in Eden, because it is not in harmony with the New Testament usage of the words LIFE and DEATH, particularly when they are associated with the mission of Christ. He is represented as coming to deliver us from death, and to impart to us life; and it will not be questioned that the death from which He frees us is the curse entailed by sin, and the life He bestows is the opposite. That life, in the New Testament, is used to signify not merely conscious existence, but man's NORMAL EXISTENCE, a blessed life in fellowship with God, where all the fruits of His favor are enjoyed, is, we think, undeniable. Death, on the other hand, frequently stands for the opposite, AN ABNORMAL EXISTENCE OF ALIENATION FROM GOD, subject to all the penal evils which follow such an existence in this world and in the world to come.

When Christ says, "Let the dead bury their dead," Matt. viii. 22 it needs surely no proof that the dead who were capable of burying their dead, were not persons who had either laid aside the body, or who had ceased to be, but men who by reason of their abnormal state of alienation from God, were viewed as spiritually dead. It is equally apparent that it is in the same sense the word is applied to the church in Sardis, which had a name to live, and was dead,—Revelations iii. 1. John affirms, "he that loveth not his brother abideth in death," but he does not mean to say either that his earthly career was over, or that he had ceased to exist. The Apostle Paul expressly declares that "to be carnally minded is death,"—Romans viii. 6—and the reason which he gives for the assertion is not that it leads on, at some future time, to "the entire deprivation of being," but that it involves alienation of heart and life from God; for in the next verse he adds, "Because the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be." This is what Paul regards as death. He even predicates death and life of the same person, at the same time,—"she that