

30 THE UNDER-WORLD OF THE DEAD

The Church on earth has no power to forgive sins, either in this world or in the next; God alone can forgive sin, and does, and will forgive when the sinner repents toward Him and believes on His Son as the only Saviour of men, and it is the Church's place to clearly and lovingly declare this sublime message. This view, moreover, denies the completeness of the atonement made in Christ and that justification before God is on the ground of faith alone. These passages make it unmistakably clear that all who pass into Hades at death, like all who pass into Paradise at death, have their place and destiny fixed for all eternity. None who enter the Hadean fire will escape the eternal Gehenna flame.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion. In the announcement that the risen Lord made to John, He claimed unconditional and unlimited authority over the entrance to the realm of the dead by saying "I have the keys of death and of *Hades*." The Pope is not the holder of those keys and neither is any other human being or body of human beings. Jesus had those keys then, He holds them still, and from His resurrection to this present