

mean simply that it is the bounden duty of every man to give his heart to Christ, and to unite with some branch of His visible Church. In other words, the duty of union and fellowship with those who love the Lord Jesus Christ is imperative. Let me illustrate the necessity of a change in the direction I have indicated :—

1. *A change towards Infidelity will not do.* That would be, in your case, a change from comparative indifference to open enmity, and would make your position worse instead of better. You cannot rid yourself of guilt by denying its existence, and whether you believe it or not, the great fact of *accountability to God* still remains. The only hope the Infidel can have of escaping endless misery is the hope that the Bible may not be true. Now if the Bible be not true, still the Infidel is no better off than the Christian ; but if the Bible be true,—what then ?

2. *A change towards Universalism will not do.* That would be closing your eyes against danger instead of trying to shun it. Many a man has sought to escape from the stings of a guilty conscience by trying to believe that God is too merciful to punish any man forever ; but it may be well to remember that a man's belief or disbelief cannot alter one of God's facts, and, let Universalists say as they will, *this* truth stands firm—"The wicked shall be turned into hell, with all the nations that forget God."

3. *A Solitary Religion, apart from all Church connection, will not do.* I do not say that a man cannot be a Christian apart from membership in the visible Church, but it is, to say the least, exceedingly impro-