

ference between
former instance
their hearts by
l, to preach to
ve forgiveness
which are sanc-
is annexed the
by faith, we
our Lord says
ved thee, go
exed the *sal-*
of the Gospel
nd thou shalt
that he gave
believeth on
sting life."¶
mate, so im-
the blessing
ver can be
n hath life,
ife, but the

it must be
ises. God
e principle
hat he has
t, may ea-
there al-
ment what
nd his ge-
civilized
the word
or opini-
o it must
be prov-
ed milli-

7. 50.

ons on the day of final account, that "he that believeth shall be saved, but he that believeth not shall perish everlastingly in his sins."*

Does this decision of heaven, wear, to any of our minds, the aspect of a mere arbitrary appointment? If it does so, my Brethren! it cannot lessen in the slightest degree, our obligations to submission, for what are we that we should undertake to regulate the counsels and decrees of Heaven; that we should rear our foolish imaginations in opposition to the wisdom of that omniscient Sovereign to whom nothing is past, or future, or distant, or obscure, to whom time and eternity—Heaven—Earth and Hell, all lie expanded, in their genuine colours and their utmost limits? But, a moment's reflection shows the wisdom of this arrangement, and discloses to us the fact, that the principle of faith in the believer's heart, is connected *by a natural process*, as well as by a supernatural appointment with the realization and enjoyment of spiritual blessings.

In order to perceive the truth of this remark, it is only necessary to reflect, that by the very act of believing we gain the *immediate possession* of some of the promises, and, at the same time, obtain the *only adequate motive* that can lead us to contend successfully for the rest. Are peace, and joy, and hope, and confidence, the subjects of promise? By believing we take them into possession. By believing, for example, we apprehend the power and willingness of Christ to save. That true and faithful saying, that "Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners,"† is taken home to the heart, with its consoling influence. This imparts peace to the soul. Even the glimmering hope or distant possibility of pardon, must exercise, to a certain extent, a tranquilizing effect upon the mind. Again, by believing, we take hold of the gracious promise of the

* Mark 16. 16.

† 1 Tim. 1. 15.