

In proof of the positions advanced in the text, those who believe that the Apostle wrote under the plenary inspiration of the Holy Spirit, can neither demand nor desire any ulterior evidence.* But the mind may unhesitatingly yield its assent to a declaration of Scripture as a matter of faith, while, at the same time, it has a very indistinct and inadequate conception of it, as a matter of understanding. In such a case a double benefit is likely to result from a *MANIFESTATION of the truth*, while the mind is more expanded, the heart may become more powerfully impressed. I am solicitous to promote both these valuable objects by an illustration of the momentous truths to which your attention is now called.

1. It is important in the first place, to obtain a clear perception of the import of the terms which the Apostle employs.

Jesus Christ, he affirms, *hath abolished death*. This is the language of grateful exultation; and well may the heavenly oracle, which announces so glorious a conquest inspire every believing breast with kindred emotions. But will the announcement bear to be tested by plain fact? Was the abolition of death completely achieved by the incarnated Son of God? Did the king of terrors who reigned from Adam to Moses, and perpetuated his all-devastating empire from Moses to Christ, drop the spear from his paralyzed arm when the Prince of Life appeared? Did the divine Redeemer work the extermination of our dreaded and mortal foe from the earth, over which, desolated by his unceasing ravages, he had so long waved his pale banner with malignant triumph? Is it on the historic records of those ages only that passed away anterior to the coming of Messiah that we trace the appalling demonstrations of his power? This were a consummation which our strong attachment to life, and our instinctive horror of the tomb, would render extremely congenial with our feelings; but vain is every hope of exemption from the infliction of the penal sentence—*Dust thou art, and unto dust thou shalt return*.

A view however there is, there must be, in which the words are sublimely true. It is a view which opens only on the eye of faith. This principle is invested with omnipotence, and the sphere of its vision is immeasurably expanded. As *with the Lord, so with faith, one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day*. It can annihilate distance the most remote, and change gloom the most profound into the light of morning. Richly imbued with this principle, the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen, the apostle could look through the vista of futurity with an eye to which the darkness of the grave presented no obstruction, and beholding the destruction of the last enemy, the gates of the sepulchre unbarred, and its long imprisoned captives liberated for ever, he could exclaim with transport, *Jesus Christ hath abolished death!*