

Endless Fire and Brimstone. I do not think Almighty God intended us to know positively all about the next world. His Revelation was given to guide us while here, and not to gratify our curiosity about things to come. Enough that we know that the wicked shall most certainly incur the wrath of God—there would be no justice in His government if the guilty were unpunished. Enough that we know that "we must all appear before the Judgment Seat of Christ, that every man may receive of the things done in his body." Enough that we know that that Judge will be infinitely just, and that the penalties of sin, though fearful, will be yet most equitable. Let us rest content with this; let us preach (as we needs must) "the terrors of the Lord," to warn the sinner, but let not those terrors be defined. Let us not merely pass over in silence, but openly repudiate, those hideous descriptions of endless misery which, once so much in vogue, still linger among the more unlettered and barbarous of revival preachers, making infidels of the strong-minded and maniacs of the weak.

And if we meet the man whose tender heart or waning faith stumbles at this stumbling-stone, let us bid him take his stand on the sure ground of the Justice and Mercy of the Most High, and that these attributes of His are infinite and eternal, and not simply limited to His dealings with men whilst here. Let us hold fast to the faith that whatsoever will happen will infallibly prove the best—not the best "under the circumstances" merely, but the best absolutely—though as yet we know not