

assign to it in the threatening in Eden!! We are asked to believe that what the Bible everywhere calls death is in reality not death, in its plain and obvious meaning; and this too by men who insist that we must always follow the simple and primary meaning of the word!

The doctrine of Conditional Immortality is an attempt to unite incompatible elements, and the result is that the theory will harmonize neither with the Scriptures, nor with itself. If the annihilationist retains his definition of death, he must abandon, like the ancient Sadducees, the hope of a resurrection. And, if he retains the Christian hope of a resurrection, he must forsake his Sadducean view of death, as the cessation of being. The doctrine is self destructive. For, if the dead have ceased to be, they cannot be raised up, and if they have not ceased to be, then, according to Annihilationists, they are not dead.

The time which we may occupy with one lecture, will not permit us to touch on many points raised in connection with the discussion of Conditional Immortality. Nor can I suppose it necessary. Those who have followed the discussion, must have seen that the points we have handled are so central that the whole question turns upon them; and that if the positions we have taken have been sustained, the doctrine of Conditional Immortality cannot be regarded as either true, or Scriptural. Our discussion has turned on the question whether death, as threatened in Eden, and spoken of throughout the Scriptures as the penalty of sin, is the extinction of being. After testing the methods by which it has been attempted to fasten this sense upon the threatening, and discovering their fallacious character, we have seen good cause to reject the annihilationist view of death. (a) Because it is based on an unfounded assumption, viz., that the primary and obvious sense of death is the cessation of existence. We have seen that this notion of death is not due to the primary force of the word, but to a materialistic philosophy, and that neither Hebrews, Greeks nor Romans, when