

Christ. And in speaking of this separation, the very strongest terms are used in Scripture—terms which signify nothing but duration without end. The figures used in Scripture as plainly as possible signify this endless duration. “The fire that shall not be quenched,” “The worm that never dieth,” “The smoke of their torment arising forever and ever,” the tares and the wheat, the corn and the chaff, the net taking every kind of fish, the good kept, and the bad cast away, the rich man and Lazarus, are figures, every one of which teaches us the doctrine of final separation and condemnation. The unpardonable sin is neither to be forgiven in this world nor the world to come.

III.—I do not believe this doctrine, because it is not according to the doctrines of this Church :

“The end of God’s appointing this day (last Judgment) is for the manifestation of the glory of His mercy in the salvation of the elect, and of His justice in the damnation of the reprobate, who are wicked and disobedient. For then shall the righteous go into everlasting life, and receive the fulness of His joy and refreshing which shall come from the presence of the Lord : but the wicked who know not God, and obey not the Gospel of Jesus Christ, shall be cast into eternal torments, and be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of His power.”

These things being taken for granted—being taken as proven, I think I should rather say—it becomes us to reflect over the subject for a few moments.

(1.) Of the three points adduced, the second (Scripture) is the most important—it is our supreme standard of appeal.

(2.) Are those who profess this doctrine noted for fervent piety ? and is the doctrine one which tends thereto ?

(3.) Would you, as fathers, like to instil into the minds of your children the doctrine that, do what you may, it will be all the same in another world ? Isn’t the risk too great a one ?

(4.) Would you as mothers, with quiet consciences, teach your daughters that purity, chastity, and all the sweet charms that go to make up our conception of woman, are mere bugbears, sent here to frighten humanity into an unreal and forced piety ? Would you like them to be brought up to think that the future world will right all the wrongs of the present, and that God is too good—too characterless, (*i.e.*)—to make any difference.