

sounds. They are signs of solemn realities, which you may to your cost experience.

I speak to you who hear of Christ and shun Him. It is certainly a very grave and momentous circumstance that you may at last find yourselves in eternal woe. I don't know of anything to compare for seriousness, with this your critical position. It is of small use for you to wince under the Word of God, and then try and cheer up and cast off all these truths from your mind. That won't alter the facts of the case. It may be disagreeable to think of finding yourself at last where the "worm dieth not and the fire is not quenched;" but there is more than the disagreeable feeling, and *it may come to pass*. The men who live on a volcano may find it an unpleasant thing to think of being swallowed up some day; but their trying to forget the subject will not induce the earthquake to keep away.

Even the most insensible must see that there is something alarming in those passages of Scripture I have quoted. You perhaps don't like them. You wish they were not in the Bible. You think them dreadfully severe and sweeping. As for that, I cannot help it. I have simply related what is written. If you have any charge to prefer, prefer it before God. Accuse Him of being too terrible. Fight with the Eternal. There are the statements, and you have to deal with them, and to consider that they apply to you as much as they apply to any one else. I don't know whether you expect me to explain them away and soften them down so that you may be more easy in your minds. If so you are to be disappointed; for God's Word on this subject is too plain to be pared away, and no one has a commission to lessen the terrors of the Lord. The language may be sometimes figurative, but the reality—the spiritual reality—must correspond in intensity with the corporeal representation, or it would be nonsense. Even should you in your painful ingenuity eliminate much of what is supposed to be taught, there will in any case be a residuum quite serious enough to make your conscience uneasy. If you want to know why God has caused such fearful things to be written, the answer is, because the reality is coming on apace, and He would have you know it and take heed in due time. It is as though God would make you feel