

"lightly esteemed the Rock of their Salvation;" have "not obeyed the truth," but wilfully neglected the "great salvation." It is observable that it is not charged that they have proudly and presumptuously despised and rejected that salvation, but have merely *neglected* it, and therefore shall not escape. Such persons have no divine promises of protection from danger, or evil of any kind; nor of support or comfort in seasons of trial or affliction, such as are so abundantly given for the sustainment and consolation of the regenerate and righteous, in all times of tribulation, perplexity, or suffering.

But infinitely more dreadful and agonizing are the declared eternal doom and punishment of those who die without "the spirit of Christ," and consequently destitute of the "great salvation." Of all such it is scripturally declared that the wrath of God abideth on them, and they shall die in their sins," and finally be cast into hell. From these, and numerous other awful announcements of an infinitely just and almighty God, all the unconverted and ungodly may clearly see, that although he has been long-suffering towards them, in order that they may repent and turn from their evil ways, and seek and find his mercy, yet if they remain in their unregenerate and sinful condition, they will, as Scripture declares, be at last consigned to everlasting "weeping, and wailing, and gnashing of teeth," "Where the worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched."

Here the solemn question arises, what is the course to be adopted and pursued by the awakened neglecter of the great salvation, in order to avoid that threatened doom and punishment? There is but one way to escape, and it is plainly pointed out and prescribed in the sacred oracles. No merely human devices and performances will avail for securing deliverance and safety, for those oracles declare that "It is the spirit that quickeneth;" and again, "You hath he quickened who were dead in trespasses and sins." And of all those who have been regenerated, and made the "sons of God," it is said, that they "were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God." But glory be unto God, that the operations of that gracious and almighty spirit have been purchased for the salvation of all, through the atoning sufferings and death of the Divine Redeemer, and therefore He is most