

"If I understand it, I, by trusting, though the worst and most abandoned sinner out of hell, am saved—saved in a clock-tick—saved as truly and as certainly as Paul himself, who is in glory. If I understand it, the whole question of my destiny is settled, over and done, the moment I consent to believe! Now, I am surprised at this doctrine. It takes away my breath. I am afraid of it. It seems to me, if I knew that my eternity were settled, I should run straight into excess—I should argue "It makes no difference—I am saved anyhow—a little sin more or less will not count."

The answer to this objection is that it is the result of a truth but half apprehended. The sinner who makes it is like a man who is looking at one arm of a walking-beam, he does not know how the arm on the other side works. It is a mistake to suppose that settling things upon a righteous basis tends to laxity. The fact is just the reverse. Take an illustration from the *angels*. Their destiny is settled and has been settled for ages. *In all heaven there is not a doubt*. No angel ever doubts his eternal salvation; but that does not tend to make angels immoral. Take an illustration from the case of a wife. Will any one say that for a woman to know she is married, and fixed by a permanent tie, tends to make her immoral? Does not every one know that the possibility of divorce entertained, makes people immoral—that doubt in this thing, is its death? Does not every one know that the strongest bond of all social life and the surest defence of all social honor is the fiat "whom God hath joined together, let not man put asunder?"

But argue the question a moment, along the line of its merits.

(1.) To trust in Christ is to *obey God*. "This is His commandment that we should believe on the name of His Son Jesus Christ." Without faith it is impossible to please Him; hence men must be brought to the obedience of faith. When they believe, for the first time in their lives, they begin to obey. But, does beginning to obey God tend to make men immoral?