

declare with Paul: "If Christ be not risen then is our preaching vain, and your faith is also vain. If Christ be not risen . . . ye are yet in your sins."

2. We hold tenaciously to this doctrine, because by forsaking it we would bring down Christianity to the level of other religions. The Christian religion alone makes immortality sure. Other systems give a glimmering hope of it, but Christianity makes it sure, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ. He spoke of the life to come in terms clear and unmistakable, and as a proof of his teachings, he declared that death would not interrupt his life. He would disappear for a little while, but his soul would live nevertheless, and he would rise and appear again to prove his statements. But we are told that death has laughed him to scorn, she has bound him to her chariot like an illustrious captive, and there he lies as the most distinguished of all her trophies. How then can I believe in immortality? Who shall persuade me that there is a life beyond the grave? We say, then, destroy our faith in the resurrection of Christ and our faith in immortality likewise vanishes. But let me believe, with the scriptures, and with the Christian world, that we celebrate on Easter day the memory of a fact, of a reality; let me believe, as I do, that the powers of hell and death fell prostrate before Christ, the Mighty Conqueror, and then I know that death is not the end of man, but simply a temporary separation between the perishing body and the immortal soul: then shall I believe that as Christ rose from the dead by the glory of the Father, so shall I live again, and live for ever, like Christ, with God.

3. Finally, we cling to our faith, because it is the only hope we have of a real resurrection. The mourner finds his joy and comfort here. Your departed friends shall rise. You will see them again, the same persons you loved long since and lost awhile. This and nothing short of it can satisfy, and you have no ground for such an expectation or belief, apart from the resurrection of Christ. As some one has said: "To mourners sorrowful and sad, there is only a single comfort which will prove satisfactory." We may reason and argue, but all in vain. No assurance about its being better for the friends whom we have lost to be where they are; no chilly philosophy as to manly fortitude or womanly endurance; no professions of sincere sympathy counselling courage. Nothing is sufficient for our own bitter bereavements except the declaration once calmly