

purpose and the works of the Lord—far otherwise with the hope and the portion of His people. The Lord knoweth the end from the beginning; and with Jehovah the end is as sure as the beginning. “The foundation of the Lord standeth sure, having the seal; the Lord knoweth them that are His.” “The gifts and calling of God are without repentance.” In trouble, in sorrow, in death, this is the unfailing consolation of the saints, “that he who hath begun a good work in them will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ,” and Jesus, with His own lips, repeats this glorious assurance: “I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand.”

Let me ask you to notice:

I. WHAT JESUS HERE IMPLIES RESPECTING HIMSELF. “I give unto them eternal life;” &c.

These words proclaim his Divinity. To bestow this gift, to secure its recipients in its perpetual enjoyment in spite of all efforts to deprive them of it,—these things belong, to Jehovah alone.

Who can be so credulous as to imagine that a mere man, however exalted in character and position,—a prince, a sovereign, the best of men,—has eternal life to bestow upon an innumerable company of his fellow creatures? And who can be so ignorant of the very rudiments of Divine truth as to affirm that a mere man, may, consistently with Christian meekness and humility, in harmony with that lowliness of mind, that