

the good of the community and not in respect to whether they be good or bad. There is a law against blasphemy, but if a man goes into the forest and swears the law knows nothing of it. Parental government is moral government, but generally partial and always limited. So it is an imperfect example.

A perfect government must, 1st. Be *perfectly impartial*.

2nd. It must reach to all moral actions, i. e. it must be *universal*.

Here we may see in what sense it is, that God is not a respecter of persons. Many think that God cannot do more for one man than for another. He has a right to do more, but he treats all from the highest to the lowest according to character, and it is *impartial*. "Who will render to every man according to his deeds." This is the principle of God's judgment. Is there then such a moral governor? This is the great question for man. What we are to be turns on this question. I suppose we may see that there is such a government already begun, but not completed.

It don't appear imperfect. It is perfect in this respect, as giving every man an opportunity to do as he pleases. God has so far withdrawn himself from the world, that He gives man this opportunity; and this is a test of his character.

If a profane man could see God would he swear? It is perfect as trying men, and has in it an evidence of full completion.

If there is not such a government there is no God. One argument for it is, that the conception of it is necessary to our own conception of the universe. What is the highest use of the universe? Moral government. A universe upheld, sustained, governed, with reference to *moral rules*. The day of judgment will be nothing but the carrying out of this moral government in its completeness. The judgment is at the end of the world. It belongs there. It will be there, and we will be there and meet it.

Most men disregard the moral government of God. Difference between a man and a brute, a brute knows nothing of it, but man does.

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