

else does. Everlasting punishment certainly is a fate which no present advantages or pleasures can compensate for, even though these should last a lifetime; and no earthly advantage or pleasure lasts a lifetime. So, immortality in happiness is infinitely more than an adequate reward for any amount of work and sacrifice and suffering in our earthly lives, however long these may last. No consideration outside of religion can present such powerful reasons for right living as are afforded by the credited declarations of Scripture regarding rewards and punishments.

But Christianity presents far more powerful motives than rewards and punishments. It does so in teaching that God is love, and is to those who love Him the most loveable of all objects of love. According to Christian doctrine, God is nearer to us than father or mother, than wife or child, than brother or sister; we owe to Him all things; He is our Creator, our Redeemer, our Preserver, our Bountiful Benefactor; He so loved the world—so loved us—as to send into the world His only begotten and eternal Son to be a propitiation for our sins. It was from love to us that Christ came into the world, and suffered, and died; and, as a result, whoever now believes in him, and earnestly and truly accepts him, shall have an everlasting life of unspeakable joy and happiness and purity. This loving God is to be loved