

drowned. I would rather be in a dozen battles than in such another tempest.

C. Now let me ask, did you then find any relief in the thought of going to be drowned with upwards of two hundred people that were in the ship with you?

S. No, I do not remember I did. I was too much frightened to think about any body but myself. Nay, now I recollect, I thought it more shocking that so many should be drowned together.

C. Then never presume to urge that common, but diabolical notion, "I shall fare as well as the rest," for instead of lessening it will only heighten your misery. The unhappy man that is to be hanged before Newgate, would surely enjoy no pleasure in seeing half a dozen cast off before him. Nor will the multitude of the wicked shut up in endless torment, afford one drop of comfort to any wretched individual among them: on the contrary, they will increase and aggravate each other's misery.

S. After all you have said, corporal, I cannot help thinking that you religious people make out things much worse than they really are. Will God be so very strict as to punish the failings of his own creatures for ever and ever?

C. This is another false prop on which thousands lean, and consequently perish. What I or any other person may say about the eternal punishment of the wicked would command little attention if God himself had not asserted it: but He has said it, and woe to you or any hardened sinner, that may dare to contradict him for the word and counsel of God are like himself, unchangeable, and must be accomplished in the damnation of the wicked as well as in the salvation of the righteous. You once told me, Bob, that in your younger days you used to read the Bible.

S. Yes, I did so, corporal.

C. Have you forgot then, how that infallible word of truth expressly says, "God is angry with the wicked every day?" that he will rain snares, fire and brimstone, and a horrible tempest upon them; and this shall be the portion of their cup? that they shall be turned into hell, with all the nations that forget God: and that they shall be tormented night and day, in that burning lake ever and ever? These are not my words! I durst not make use of such language to a fellow-creature; they are the express declaration of God, who cannot lie, who certainly will be faithful to his awful threatenings, as well as to all his most gracious promises. Every perfection of his nature stands engaged to see both fulfilled.