

existence, but that life designates a certain functional power, attended with certain processes and results—something superadded to existence—and that men are represented as being in a state called *death*, while they live in sin. It is clear that there are two moral states of the human soul, each existing in this life, with their tendencies distinctly marked, to be followed by the full and final consummation, which is “eternal life,” or the “second death,” often called “*life*” and “*death*.” As the believer shall never see death, but hath everlasting life, even so it is said of the unbeliever that he “shall not see life, but the wrath of God abideth on him.” By the act of believing in Jesus, men have passed from death unto life. Each state begins here. “Death has passed upon all men,” and will be continued hereafter, unless they are quickened through Christ.

The terms “life” and “death,” on which so greatly depends the theory of annihilation, so far from supporting such a doctrine, teach a very different doctrine. Some of the expressions that annihilationists call so absurd, and that they so sneeringly pronounce, are really sustained by the Bible. Storrs, in his *Six Sermons*, laughs about “a death that never dies.” The sinner who spends his whole term of probation and privileges without being pardoned, or through faith in Christ passes from death unto life, will always be dead, or separated from God, and never cease to exist; like the Ephesians, who, while “dead in sins,” were “fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind.” The wicked will die in one sense and will not die in another—will experience eternal death, and yet never cease to exist. He “will linger in eternal pains, and yet forbid to die.” Life, then, being something more than existence, *eternal life* is something more than eternal existence. The word “eternal” denotes merely the *continuance* of the life. The expression “eternal life” occurs forty-four times in the New Testament, and in no one of those places does it indicate mere external existence. It always means eternal *enjoyment* of life. So with death. It does not mean non-existence, but existence in a certain state.