

But we must let the Universalist speak for himself. He says that the soul is punished here for sin, and that the punishment is completed hereafter, and, when justice is satisfied, the soul is admitted into Heaven. But I ask him where does he get his information? Not from Scripture, as we shall see presently; and not from experience, for I would ask him, does punishment reform the spirit? Was there ever a spirit regenerated in the world by mere punishment? I maintain there was not. Punishment may deter from crime through fear, but that is all. The soul is unaffected by it. Take one of our Rock-head criminals; tell him, as you liberate him, that there is to be no further punishment of *crime*, and with what result? This: that he would now give full scope to his wicked nature, and the last state of that man would be worse than the first.

So with souls in the Universalist's Heaven. A Heaven filled with the souls of such men—with characters unchanged from their condition on earth, is not the Paradise of the blessed. And thus I maintain, whatever it may be, it is not a doctrine of common sense.

There is one other argument used and urged against the commonly received doctrine of eternal punishment. It is this: "How can God," they say, "being a God of love and benevolence, permit a large proportion of the immortal souls of the world to be punished forever in the misery and woe of everlasting death?" "How can this be?" To this I can give no reply. How can it be, is a question which man will perhaps never be able to answer, not even when we come to know "*even as we are known.*" But I can tell you how some of the human race may be made supremely happy throughout eternity, *i. e.*, in the enjoyment of the companionship of God and Christ, and the good and godly of all ages—*separate from all evil and sin, and evil and sinful men*, and the way to this is open to all through Jesus Christ. There is, however, one condition on which alone the Universalist's doctrine may be made true in the future, *by all men coming unto the Lord Jesus!* Would God we could dream of such a glorious consummation of the world!

In one word, by the generally received doctrine, *some* can be made happy, though some who deserve it shall be forever punished. On the doctrine under consideration (as shown) you subject *all* to the wretchedness already pointed out.

As to the numbers saved and the numbers lost, we have nothing to