

action of one not at peace with Him through His own peace. "Without faith it is impossible to please God" (Heb. xi. 6). This is God's theology, however hard it may seem, and however much opposed to your ideas, and to the prevailing ideas of the world concerning good works and their reward. "*Dead works*" is stamped on all your deeds. Until you serve God as one who is saved, all your service will but intensify your anguish in the pit of woe, whither the Christless, the seemingly good and fair, beautiful and noble, are all swept together with the vile, the loathsome, the idolater, and the profane. There are not two hells. Where will you spend eternity?

II. TRUE SERVICE.

Half an hour ago you may have been serving in the dark, as an unforgiven one, and during the next half hour, you may pass from death unto life, and thus stand on the ground of the accepted servant. God is perfect: to meet God I must meet Him in perfection. There is no perfection in me; but He has provided the means by which each of us may at once become acceptable *servants* by first becoming accepted *sons*. Jesus—His only-begotten and well-beloved Son, eternally in the Father's bosom, took upon Him our nature, descended to our place of responsibility and service, and approved Himself to be the perfect Servant in that very place in which we had failed; became sin for us, was obedient unto death, having gone through all the billows of God's wrath, has been raised from the dead, and is now at the Father's right hand. If, therefore, we become by faith identified with Him, we can see in Him all our responsibilities under law met; we can look into His empty grave, and reckon our sins buried there; and now, as those who are beyond the doom of sin and beyond its judgment, we can serve in "newness of life," a resurrection-life. This, and nothing else, is the foundation of true service, the service of love, the service of sons;

for we now stand in Christ's place of sonship as He once, in grace, occupied our place of death.

We ask you, is this not a real vantage ground for service? What a wretched, menial service it is to be working hard for life, and doubting whether it can ever be obtained! The true service is a working *from* the Cross, not *to* the Cross. The corpse does not bestir itself to get life, but it is the living man who works because he has life. Be not deceived. This is God's plan; *life*, then *service*. Ask yourselves now the question, "Am I serving because I have life? because I am saved?" Then it is evident that you *know* you are saved—you "know that you are of God" (1 John v. 19).

But perhaps some one may be thinking, "Well, I've been doing this little and that little, but I have never been conscious of being born again." Stop, then, dear friend, at once, and make it sure. Turn on the spot from thy service, and get rid of thy sin by believing in Him who, as the perfect servant, bore our sins in His own body on the tree (1 Peter ii. 24). Get into Christ—in His perfection thou canst meet and serve the living God.

"But," you may ask, "How am I to get into Him?" Simply by knowing Him (John xvii. 3); by believing on Him (John iii. 36); by trusting in Him (2 Tim. i. 12). God has given Him to you already (John iii. 16). You do not require to go to heaven to beseech God to send you Jesus to die for sin (Rom. x. 6). No, "For God so loved the world that He *gave* His only-begotten Son." And Christ dieth no more. In the love-gift of God, Jesus is yours. If you go to hell, it must be over a *given Christ*.

When the poor men in the cotton manufacturing districts were starving moved with pity you sent your money to the committee for distributing bread to them. Now, suppose some poor man, with his wife and children sitting in