

unto others as others do unto you, retaliate": Christianity says "No, do unto others, not as others actually do unto you, but as ye would that others should do unto you: treat every man in exactly the same way as ye would that he should treat you were you in his position and he in yours." This is the positive side of the rule, but it has also its negative side and must be applied negatively as well as positively. Heathenism says "What things ye would not that other men should do to you you may do to them if you get the opportunity": Christianity says "No, what things you do not wish others to do to you refrain from doing unto them even though you do get the opportunity." Such then is Christianity as opposed to heathenism and all forms of selfishness.

Now in speaking to-night on the golden rule as opposed to selfishness I may say that I am not one of those who believe that human nature is entirely and hopelessly selfish. The doctrine of total depravity in this sense I do not accept. This is the devil's creed, and in adopting it I am sorry to say he has too many followers, but from my own knowledge of human nature, limited as it is, I refuse just yet to accept any such creed. Such complete confidence has Satan in the thorough selfishness of human nature, that wherever you see him you are sure to see him acting on this behalf. It was this belief which led him to

tempt man in the first place, and ever since that day in Eden the conviction seems to have been growing on him because we see him tempting even our Lord himself. So convinced was he that wherever there is human nature there must, as a matter of course be selfishness, that his brazen audacity led him to spread his snares before the God-man himself. Look again at what he said in that remarkable interview which God had with him concerning the excellencies of Job. With a taunting sneer we hear him replying "Doth Job serve God for naught?" Selfishness, according to Satan, covered the whole domain of life—even religion, and so Job's religion was based on selfishness. He was serving God simply because of the oxen, the asses, the sheep, the camels, the money which God blessed him with. But "remove these," says Satan, "and Job will curse thee to thy face" Such may be said to be the devil's creed. Now wherever you see a man who professes to be an adherent of this creed, you may rest assured that it is because he is controlled to a large degree by the spirit of the devil. I believe that the man who thinks all other men dishonest is dishonest himself; and I believe, furthermore, that the morbid cynic who, like the devil, has no faith in human nature, is a close follower of the devil. Occasionally we meet such men. Beware of such my hearer! Beware of the