

that I said, that Solomon is gone to hell, I did not affirm so; but I take Solomon where the scripture doth, and leave him where the scripture doth, in the hand of a merciful God. Asking why the Bible is so particular to mention all the *good* conduct of Solomon, and then this *bad* conduct, if he repented why was not that put down? Turn to the history of Josephus, and it leaves Solomon if possible, in a worse situation than the Bible doth, &c.

Some people blame me for *holding to perfection*, and at the same time they hold *to it* stronger than I do: and moreover, for not holding to the final *perseverance* of the saints; which assertion I think is wrong, for I think there is danger of *falling away*—therefore I hold to *perseverance*, ~~and~~ and they cannot deny it. But they hold, a man cannot get rid of sin. Here, therefore, they hold to *persevering* in sin, and they hold to a falling from grace. Of course, this is the truth, ~~and~~ and they cannot deny it. Some have heard ministers pray to God, that the people might be sanctified from all sin; and then told them that they could not get rid of all sin. This was a clash. People frequently feel good desires from God to get rid of "all sins," (James 1, 17,) and yet think they cannot obtain the blessing, so pray in unbelief for it. We read, that whatsoever is not of *faith* is *sin*; therefore if I hold with them, I should pray thus, "Lord save me from part of my sins now, and at death take them all away," &c. But this doth not correspond with the Lord's prayer, which commandeth us to pray that God's *Kingdom may come*, and his *will* be done, &c., as in heaven; and we delivered from *evil*.

The kingdom of God, we read, is not meat and drink, but righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost. And Paul saith, this is the will of God, even your sanctification; and if a man be delivered from all evil, there is no sin left. And what is the benefit to pray for it, if we cannot have it? But in obedience to the commandment to pray for deliverance from evil, Paul besought God to sanctify the Thessalonians wholly, and to preserve their whole spirit, soul, and body blameless, unto the coming of Christ, (1 Thess. v, 23;) and again, verse 16 to 18, he commandeth them to rejoice evermore, pray without ceasing, in every thing give thanks, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you. Matt. v, 48, Christ saith, "Be ye perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect;" i. e. for a man in our sphere, as perfect as God is for God in his sphere. Again, "Be ye holy for I am holy." Again, "The commandment is to love the Lord with all our heart, soul, body, mind, and strength, and our neighbor as ourself," &c. And blessed be God, the promise