

intelligible, but if it means mere existence, or conscious being, the assertion palpably contradicts facts. It may be imagined that, at some future period, the unbeliever shall cease to be, but that he now exists is as certain as any fact to which our senses bear witness. (3) But the nature of the death in which the unbeliever abides, and out of which he shall not pass, is explained by the last clause of the verse, "But the wrath of God abideth on him." He is in other words, subject to such penal evil as the divine displeasure may inflict. The death which is here implied is not the extinction of being, but an abnormal state of being, where man, estranged from God, abides under his frown. According to the Annihilationist interpretation of the various clauses of this verse, the whole may be fairly paraphrased, as follows: He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting conscious existence, he that believeth not the Son shall not see conscious existence, but the wrath of God abideth on that which has "utterly and wholly ceased to be"!!! A theory which reduces such a text to nonsense is not of God.

The usage of the words life and death, to which we have adverted, pervades the New Testament, vide John v. 24; John vi. 47-51; Rom. vii. 9-13; Rom. vii. 24-15; Rom. viii. 6; Ep̄. ii. 1-6; Eph. iv. 18-19; Col. ii. 12-13; 1st John iii. 14.

V. We cannot accept the Annihilationists' view of the death threatened in Eden, because they do not themselves adhere to it, and cannot adhere to it, without coming into direct conflict with what they acknowledge to be the teaching of Scripture.

Those who embrace the phase of the doctrine of Conditional Immortality with which we are dealing, maintain (1) that the death threatened in Eden, and death in the primary and obvious sense of the word, are one and the same; and both imply the extinction of being. Those who have died have "utterly and wholly ceased to be." (2) That there shall be a resurrection of the entire race, and a general Judgment, where the wicked shall have such punishment inflicted on them, as will issue in their final annihilation.