

4th. There is instruction given here as regards prayer to the saints. Prayers to the saints may be indulged in, but if so, the practice is perfectly useless. There is no more probability that it will prove successful now than when the rich man in Hades prayed to Abraham on behalf of his brethren on earth.

5th. Is it too much to say that a person's estimate of the value of Scriptures furnishes a good test of his spiritual state? Abraham in Paradise thought very highly of the sacred Scriptures. The rich man in Hades thought very little of them. What a marvellous difference was there between the position and character of the two men!

6th. We find that the way of salvation is only one. In and through the life and death of Christ, Salvation is ours, if we choose to accept it on this side the grave but not on the other. Such a thing as a post mortem salvation has not been revealed. Hereafter we may plead till we exhaust our strength to be permitted to climb up some other way. But if the narrative of the rich man be true, it will be all to no purpose. There has been a wonderful unity on this point both in Heaven and earth from the days of Abraham till the present hour. It is important that that unity should be maintained.

Finally thank God for the precious gift of His Word and the glorious revelations made therein. Specially thank Him for the revelation of iniquity pardoned and of sin forgiven through the blood of Christ and let it exercise a visible influence over your life and conduct to the end of your days. Being thoroughly persuaded of this truth as made known in Old and New Testament Scriptures we have the best guarantee for immunity from trouble in respect of any alleged deficiencies in the records of truth. The Scriptures which have revealed Christ to us, are not likely to be the defective, reprehensible, fraudulent agencies which some would have us believe them to be. God forbid that we should ever look upon them in that repulsive and dishonouring light, rather may our sentiments ever find a true expression in the words of the Psalmist "O how I love thy law, all the day long is my study in it."