

Y involving the deepest interests without proof. Either we have some scriptural warrant to believe that such children are saved, or we have not. If we have, let us give glory to the Divine mercy, and rejoice in the assurance of their safety. But if any take the contrary position, we cannot see what ground such persons have to hope or believe in a probable regeneration, which God may work in those who die. Either children who die in infancy are saved by virtue of an interest in the atonement of Christ and the covenant of redemption, which all infant children have, or they are not saved at all. And that they are thus saved there cannot be a reasonable doubt. We should, however, believe in the salvation of infants, not in spite of our theology, but a theology drawn from the Word of God, and consistent with itself, should be the foundation of such confidence. We have no reason to believe that God looks with more favour on the child appointed unto death, than on that appointed unto life. If men, in order to sustain man-made creeds will close their eyes on Bible truth, and shut their ears to the voice of reason, let them at least be silent, and not attempt to supply the place of the truths neglected, by unfounded speculation. In grave theological questions, we require proof, not hypothesis. Why should the true ground, upon which we have a warrant to believe, in the salvation of children dying in infancy, be ignored, and the deficiency supplied by conjectural theories?

This theory is unquestionably a reaction from the harsh and dark views of the moral condition of children, commonly presented by Calvinistic writers, and others who have followed them in their pictures of the depravity of man. These pictures were frequently untrue, inasmuch as they represented all unconverted men, not as they really were, but as they would have been, without the drawings of the Spirit, and the power of restraining grace. "Total depravity" has been so taught as to represent every individual unconverted as a mass of moral rottenness, without one pulse of