

unto the children of Israel, I AM hath sent me unto you."

Now here is the first thing for the soul's acceptance—God is! He is not far off but near. One out of whose presence we cannot escape. One in whose presence we ever are. Do we act on this, beloved friends, as if we believed it? Does the poor fool who says in his heart, "There is no God," believe this? How do his actions speak in reply? Just in this solemn way—that they are performed without reference to God at all!

Who could sin with impunity, consciously in God's presence? Not even the most depraved. He dare not commit his iniquity there. But his life is formed upon the principle that there is no God. He does not say this with his lips, but his heart says it, (and his walk and ways express what is in his heart.) He would love to think that his desire is true, and that when he died he would be as the beasts that perish and cease to be.

But we must return to this initial lesson of the soul. God reveals Himself as the great "I AM," the self-existing God: beside whom there is none. Let us act according to this revelation, and act always so as to prove that we believe it. There is none who can say, "I am that I am," but He. Where is the man who is not double-minded at times? Does he tell me all that is in his heart? Nay; not even to his best beloved on earth! Paul as a saved one can say, "by the grace of God I am what I am,"—I am what grace has made me. But even he cannot say, "I am *that* I am."