

SPECULATION.

From a late epistle, we extract the following:—

"I have been reprimanded of late very severely by brother..... for questioning Bunyan's position on the immortality of the Devil: and, also the immortality of the Soul: and, indeed, not by him alone! Yet, these are questions, that on most occasions, I strive to shun.—I do hope, however, that people will see the necessity of believing simply what is written; and not blame me for not believing what I have no testimony to rest on."

Thus writes a most excellent brother. He does not believe in speculating on untaught questions! Not he!! But could he agitate any questions more speculative—more directly calculated to turn away the mind from the *facts, commands and promises* of the Gospel? I think not. There is a class of minds that feed on visionary and untaught principles—if anything can be called a *principle* which is untaught—and to speculate with them, is to bind satan's chains more firmly around them.

The brother whose words I copy, I believe to be a good man—a lover of truth—one who can bear a reproof—when administered in kindness: and I, therefore, take this occasion to admonish him that as he loves his own soul and desires the salvation of others that he cultivate a disposition *HIMSELF to be satisfied with what is written!* When he enjoys this state of mind, although he may say that the phrases "immortal soul" and "immortal devil" are not in the record, yet he will not endeavor to extinguish in minds, ignorant of the word of God, the idea, that they possess that which is deathless; neither will he, I think, doubt the eternal existence of the devil.

I have neither the time nor the disposition, at present, requisite to writing an essay on these "delectable" themes; but I would simply observe, in passing, that many minds have become confused and embarrassed by the unscriptural style in which the truth has often been treated even by its friends.

Soul and Spirit are often used as synonymous terms; and yet the word soul is frequently used to designate the *whole man*—sometimes the *life*—and often the *affections*. A superficial glance at the word of God will confirm this statement.

Materialists—Semi-infidels, talk largely on the absurdity of the phrase "immortality of the soul;" and often boast of adhering to the exact letter of the Book. They are extremely familiar with the text "the soul that sinneth it shall die;" yet at the same time know, or ought to know, that mortality is never predicated of the spirit. When Paul writes philosophically he says "I pray God that your whole spirit, and soul, and body be preserved blameless." &c.