

And now leaving reason, let us turn to Revelation, let us ask ourselves is there anything in the Word of God to support, to corroborate the judgment of the intellect as it proceeds to pronounce its almost spontaneous decision upon this remarkable question. And as I search the Scriptures, I cannot find one verse which would lead me definitely to believe that the heathen who die without the knowledge of Christ shall obtain salvation, as we understand salvation. We have two remarkable verses in the Epistle to the Romans, which seem to point this way. First, the 12th verse of the second chapter, which states, "For as many as have sinned without law shall also perish without law." Now if the Apostle had been able to follow up this statement with one to the effect that as many as have lived absolutely sinless lives without knowing about God's revelation to man (for that is what the phrase "without law" practically means,) shall live; this verse would have had an effectual bearing upon the question that we are considering; but the trouble is he has to say afterwards, "For *all* have sinned and come short of the glory of God," and so all that he can say here is, as many as have sinned without law shall also *perish* without law. "The second verse that I refer you to in this connection is the 19th verse of the third chapter: "Now, we know that what things soever the law saith, it saith to them who are under the law." Here is another verse that at first reason would be inclined to turn to in support of its position, but notice the closing. "That every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God." Here again is no discrimination, but the whole world is put on the same plane, and that the plane of guilt before God, which brings with it eternal condemnation.

But as we are still considering the purely judicial aspect of the question, there is just one distinction which these verses point to, between heathendom and enlightened Christianity, a distinction which one seems to discover in the whole range of Christian truth. When unsaved Christendom shall at last be raised from the dead and stand before the Judgment Throne of God, sentence of death will be passed upon it, and it will pass into everlasting condemnation. But the ultimate cause of the condemnation will not be the transgressions of the decalogue, not the murders, the robberies, the sins without