

*David Dickson's*

**Truth's Victory Over Error**

Chapter XXXII. (Part 1.)

***Of the State of Men after Death,  
and of the Resurrection of the Dead.***

Question I: Do the Souls of the Righteous enter Heaven after death?

Question II: Are the Souls of the Wicked cast into Hell after death?

QUESTION I.

ARE the Souls of the Righteous, being made perfect in holiness, received into the highest Heavens, where they behold the Face of GOD in Light and Glory?

Yes. *Acts* 3.21. *Ephes.* 4.10. [*Phil.* 1.23.]

Well then, *do not the* Greeks, Arminians, Anabaptists, *and* Papists *err, who maintain, that the Souls of the Righteous are not presently after death, admitted to enjoy happiness, which consists in seeing of GOD; but are put into some Mansion, though it be not a Heavenly one; yet a place above Hell, where they enjoy, even until the Resurrection, some Heavenly Delight, and Recreation, without seeing GOD?*

Yes.

*Do not likewise the Socinians err, who affirm, That the Souls of the Righteous after death, until the Resurrection, are extinguished, and put out, to speak so?*

Yes.

*By what reasons are they confuted?*

(1) Because, the Souls of the Righteous after Death are with Christ in Heaven, and enjoy that blessed Vision, *Phil.* 1.23. *Acts* 3.21. *Eph.* 4.10. (2) Because, the Spirits of *Just Men* after Death *return to GOD*, and are received by *GOD*; *Eccles.* 12.7. *Acts* 7.59. Note, that *Solomon* only speaketh of the *people of GOD*. Yet some understand it of the Souls both of Believers and unbelievers, which are both sentenced by *GOD*, as *supreme Judge*, immediately when a man *dieth*, every man to his *place*, the Souls of *Believers to Heaven*, of *unbelievers to hell*. (3) Because, the Saints departed, together with the Angels, are said to sing perpetually *Praises and Thanksgiving* before His Throne; *Rev.* 4.6, 9-11. *Rev.* 5.8-10. *Rev.* 7.9,10. (4) Because, Christ promised, that the Thief should be with him in *Paradise, that same very day he died*; *Luke* 23.43. *Paul* also calls it the *third Heaven*; *2 Cor.* 12.2,4. (5) Because, the Spirits of *just men*, are said to be made perfect in *holiness and glory*, and placed in the *Heavenly Jerusalem* with the Apostles; *Heb.* 12.22,23. (6) Because, the Apostle says, that if our earthly house of this *tabernacle* were dissolved, we have a *building of GOD*, an house not made with hands,

*eternal in the heavens; 2 Cor. 5.1,2. (7) Because, the same Apostle says, therefore we are always confident, knowing that whilst we are at home in the body, we are absent from the Lord; 2 Cor. 5.6,8. (8) Because, the souls of the righteous after death are comforted, and carried into Abraham's bosom; Luke 16.22,25.*

Quest. II. "ARE the souls of the wicked cast into hell, where they remain in torments, and utter darkness reserved to the judgment of the great day?"

Yes. Luke 16.23,24. Acts 1.25. Jude 6,7. 1 Peter 3.19.

Well then, do not the Greeks and others err, who maintain, that the souls of the wicked are not adjudged to hell's torments, till after the resurrection?

Yes.

Do not likewise the Socinians err, who maintain, that the souls of the wicked shall never be tormented in hell?

Yes.

By what reasons are they confuted?

(1) Because, the particular judgment of every single man, follows immediately his departure out of this life; Heb. 9.27. (2) Because, the soul of the rich glutton, after it departed from his body, was tormented in the flames of Hell; Luke 16.22,23. (3) Because, the souls of wicked men departed go to their own place, that is to hell, Acts 1.25. (4) Because, the souls of wicked men, are no less punished in hell, than the Apostate Angels; Jude verses 6, 7. (5) Because, the Spirits of those who in the time of Noah were disobedient are said to be in prison, 1 Peter 3.19; This prison is Hell, Matth. 5.25, 26.

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| <p>Contemplations of Thomas Vincent (1634-1678)<br/>On the Experience of Unworthy-but-Redeemed Sinners<br/>Entering Heaven without their Beloved Relations.</p> |
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Some of them will remember how they outstripped others in sin, and were guilty of more gross breaches of the law than many millions of the wicked whom they will see condemned; and that they should escape, and be awakened to repent, and obtain pardon and salvation through Christ when others were passed by and let alone to perish under smaller sins, this will fill them with astonishing admiration and wondering joy, when they see some of their near relations going to hell; their father, their mother, their children, their sisters, their intimate friends and companions. However they are grieved now to see them take such courses and walk in the way to hell, and they labor to pull them out of that way, and would fain persuade them to walk with them in heaven's way, and are troubled to think of the torment which they must endure if they go on; yet hereafter relative ties and those affections which now they have to relations-out-of-Christ will cease, and they will not have the least trouble to see them sentenced to hell and thrust into the fiery furnace, but will rejoice in the glory of God which will be manifested upon them in their destruction. And oh, the joy that they will be filled with to think that they were not passed by with the rest of their relations; that they were not under the same deserved condemnation with them; that God would choose but one or two in many families, and they should be in the number of the chosen ones; that when His chosen were comparatively so few, and the reprobates so many, they should be elected when there was no motive in them to incline God to the choice of them; that he should choose them freely! ... they are going from hell, when their relations are going into it, this will fill them with joy unspeakable. — Christ's Sudden & Certain Appearance to Judgment, p 159, ed. 1996.