

IMMORTALITY
Job 14:14.

Here in the midst of flowers and song with the evidences of life all about us, it is but natural that we should think with Watts of our home over yonder where everlasting spring abides and never withering flowers. The good ladies who have had in charge the beautifying of the church today have shown forth again the beautiful affection of woman for her Lord. In that like the women who came early to the grave on that first Easter morning to do some little service to Jesus you have come here with your flowers to do honor to His blessed name. God bless you.

At this season of the year above all others we like to think about our souls' eternal home. We like to go over again the assurance of such a state. There is perhaps to day the old question of Job in some peoples' hearts, "If a man die shall he live again?" And again we think with Paul, "If in this life only, we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable."

Some one has defined immortality as the continuity of life carried to infinity. There is a law in mathematics that, "That which is true in every step up to infinity, must be true at infinity also." The persistence of life in all its stages here presupposes its persistence beyond death up to infinity itself.

We want to study together today some of the things that make us feel assured that the soul continues after death. Science and philosophy come to our help just here. We are told that matter cannot be destroyed. They tell us that a piece of coal may be changed into gas, smoke, and ashes but the original coal is not annihilated. The gas, smoke, and ashes weighed together will equal the lump of coal. A stone thrown into a pool of water starts a motion which keeps on even after the eye ceases to it etc. An anvil struck starts a sound etc. The radio proves it.

If then matter, motion, and sound may be thought of as eternal if such is true of the inanimate, unthinking, and unconscious, is it a thing unthinkable to believe that the soul of man which is alive, thinking, and conscious will live on?

Let us look at another fact which science teaches us. It teaches that there are some things which cannot be felt such as air. Also that there are some things which cannot be handled, such as space. But there are very few things which can neither be felt nor handled. Air for instance can be condensed and separated into its component parts as is done every day in the manufacture of hydrogen, nitrogen, and liquid air. Space on the other hand cannot be felt nor handled. Although we cannot feel nor handle space yet we know that there is space. Doing away with space is unthinkable.

Let us join this fact with the soul of man. If a thing which can not be felt nor handled is indestructible then surely the soul of man is indestructible. For the soul of man can not be felt as with the fingers nor can it be handled. Neither can it be seen. Then let us reemphasize. If inanimate matter cannot be annihilated (that is left with science to prove) and if unconscious space cannot be done away is it thinkable that a conscious

spirit can have an end? These souls are active and progressive here. Then if that which is true every step to infinity is true also at infinity then the soul which is active, conscious, and progressive here it must be active, conscious, and progressive hereafter.

When God breathed in to Adam the breath of life and he became a living soul God gave Adam a part of Himself. That soul of man being a part of God is as indestructable as God. No soul is ever going to end. It will live on in heaven or in hell.

But in coming into the flesh the soul one day became contaminated with sin. We have partaken of the evil environment and Christ came to call us back to partake of the original environment God. By His atonement we are able to come into that blessed state.

Jesus did not come to bring immortality for that had already been given but He came to bring it to light. Now will we take an immortality of shame or of blessedness?

Then it seems that we can in no way disbelieve in immortality. Then why should a Christian fear death? The Latins put it this way, "Death is the gate of life." The Bible puts it better, "For we know 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."

But should there still be doubts left as to an after life surely if one who lived here and died came back after death no ground for doubt would be left. That was what Jesus did. Bless His name He did all things well. He walked with men forty days after the resurrection to prove beyond all question that the soul lives on. This was so convincing to the disciples that the ~~church~~ ^{disciples} who for ~~sook Him before His death~~ ^{saw Him after the Resurrection} died for Him after the Resurrection.

When the Lusitania was going down Charles Frohman said, "Why should we fear death? It is life's finest form of adventure."

Strong in our faith of an eternal life and closer union with those we love and for a while have lost, we often cast eager yearning glances in to that better world, where the dreams of this world shall at length be turned into realities, where the finite shall have put on the splendors of infinity without putting off any of its former glories. This makes us feel even in the case of our gone on loved ones as Shelley felt concerning his departed friend., when he said:

PEACE PEACE HE IS NOT DEAD HE DOETH NOT SLEEP
HE HATH AWAKENED FROM THE DREAM OF LIFE.
HE HATH OUTSOARED THE SHAADOW OF OUR NIGHT
WHAT ADONAI IS, WHY FEAR WE TO BECOME?
'TIS ADONAI CALLS! OH HASTEN THITHER
NO MORE LET LIFE DEVIDE WHAT DEATH CAN JOIN TOGETHER.
I AM BORNE DARKLY, FEARFULLY, AFAR!
WHILST BURNING THROUGH THE INMOST VEIL OF HEAVEN
THE SOUL OF ADONAI LIKE A STAR
BEACONS FROM THE ABODE WHERE THE ETERNAL ARE.

