

Quotes on Damnation

by

Richard Baxter

If you could ask any man that is this day in Hell, or that will ever be there, what brought him thither, and who it was long of that he came to such a miserable end, he must needs tell you it was himself. If you come to any in earthly misery, and ask them, who brought this upon them? If they speak truly they must say, it was themselves. And this will be a great aggravation of their misery, and the fuel that will feed the unquenchable fire, to think that all this was their own doing, and that they had not been deprived of the heavenly Glory but for their own refusal or neglect. It will fill the soul with an everlasting indignation against itself to consider that it hath cast itself wilfully into such misery! that, when Satan could not, and men could not, and God would not, if he had not done it himself, he should be so witless and graceless as to be the chooser of sin, the refuser of holiness, and his own undoer.

Yea, you fetch destruction from the blessed Redeemer, and death from the Lord of life himself! And nothing more emboldeneth you in sin, than that Christ hath died for you; as if now the danger of death were over, and you might boldly venture: As if Christ were become a servant to Satan and your sins, and must wait upon you while you are abusing him; and because he is become the physician of souls, and is able to save to the utmost all that come to God by him, you think he must suffer you to refuse his help, and throw away medicines, and must save you whether you will come to God by him or not; so that a great part of your sins are occasioned by your bold presumption upon the death of Christ; not considering that he came to redeem his people from their sins, and to sanctify them a peculiar people to himself, and to confirm them in holiness to the image of their heavenly Father, and to their head.

Every talent of time, health, abilities, mercies, afflictions, means, warnings, must be reckoned for. The sins of youth, those which they had forgotten, and their secret sins, shall all be laid open before angels and men. They shall see the Lord Jesus, whom they neglected, whose word they disobeyed, whose ministers they abused, whose servants they hated, now

sitting to judge them. Their own consciences shall cry out against them, and call to their remembrance all their misdoings. Which way will the wretched sinner look? Who can conceive the terrible thoughts of his heart? Now the world cannot help him; his old companions cannot; the saints neither can nor will. Only the Lord Jesus can; but there is the misery, he will not. Time was, sinner, when Christ would, and you would not; now, fain would you, and he will not.

As it will be the everlasting employment of the Saints, to enjoy that felicity, and to admire and praise that infinite Love which caused them to enjoy it: So will it be the everlasting misery of the damned, to be deprived of that felicity, and to think of their folly in the unthankful contempt of it; and of the excellency of that Kingdom which thus they did condemn. God sets before you Earth and Heaven: If you choose earth, expect no more: And hereafter, Remember, that you had your choice.

The Lord seeth how you forget him and your latter end, and how light you make of everlasting things, as men that understand not what they have to do or suffer. He seeth how bold you are in sin, and how fearless threatnings, and how careless of your souls, and how the works of infidels are in your lives, while the belief of Christians is in your mouths. He seeth the dreadful day at hand, when your sorrows will begin, and you must lament all this with fruitless cries in torment and desperation; and then the remembrance of your folly will tear your hearts, if true conversion now prevent it not.

They think God were cruel if he should damn them (unconverted men); and yet they are so cruel to themselves, that they will run into the fire of hell; when God hath told them it is a little before them, and neither entreaties, nor threatnings, nor any thing that can be said, will stop them. We see them almost undone; their careless, worldly, fleshly lives do tell us, that they are in the power of the devil; we know, if they die before they are converted, all the world cannot save them; and, knowing the uncertainty of their lives, we are afraid every day lest they drop into the fire. And, therefore, we entreat them to pity their own souls, and not to undo themselves when mercy is at hand, and they will not hear us. We entreat them to cast away their sin, and come to Christ without delay, and to have some mercy on themselves, but they will have none. And yet they think that God must be cruel if he

condemns them. O wilful miserable sinners! It is not God that is cruel to you; it is you that are cruel to yourselves.

Yet these men cannot deny themselves in life, or liberty, in gain, or honour, no nor in the filthiest lusts, for the sake of Christ and their own salvation: Even when they may know that they must deny themselves when they will not deny themselves. They deny themselves eternal glory, because they will not deny themselves in temporal vanity. Heaven and earth will witness against such sottish and unrighteous dealing as this, if true Conversion do not prevent it.

Slothfulness is the common cause of men's damnation; when they see a temptation and danger before them, slothfulness hindereth them from resisting it When Heaven is offered them, slothfulness makes them sit still and lose it. They must Run, and Strive, and Fight, and Conquer, and these are not works for a slothful person; especially when they must be continued to the death. So that it's manifest, that most men in the world are undone soul and body, by the sin of sloth.