

**ENDLESS PUNISHMENT; ITS
ORIGIN AND
GROUNDS EXAMINED,
WITH OTHER DISCOURSES**

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Endless Punishment; Its Origin and Grounds Examined, with Other Discourses by T. J. Sawyer

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T. J. SAWYER

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WITH OTHER DISCOURSES.

Delivered at the
BY T. J. SAWYER.

Minister of the Orchard street (Universalist) Church, New York.

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1845.

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PREFACE.

The following pages were written to be published and are published in the hope that they may be read. It would therefore be quite out of place to offer an apology for the errors and imperfections they may very probably contain.

The subjects here treated I cannot but think important, and to deserve much greater attention than they usually receive. Of the doctrine of Endless Punishment it may be thought that I have spoken harshly; but I ask my reader to reflect on the doctrine a moment, on its terrible character, on what it implies of man and ascribes to God, the Father of all, and then tell me in candor if I have spoken of it, or if it be possible for any one to speak of it, in terms of condemnation too severe. For the honest believers in this horrible dogma I would ever entertain a due respect, but the doctrine itself I can neither respect, nor speak of in any other language than that of undisguised abhorrence and detestation. The ingenuity of men and devils can invent nothing worse. It is the foulest libel ever uttered upon the divine character and government, a disgrace to the church which fosters it, and a curse to all over whom it exerts an influence. No system of theology which embraces it can be otherwise than corrupt and corrupting, inasmuch as it teaches principles subversive of the very spirit of the gospel, and inconsistent with the whole revealed character of God.

But I will not argue the subject here; I merely commend this little book to such as may be interested in its perusal; for the rest, I would neither court their favor, nor deprecate their displeasure.

THE AUTHOR,

New York, 1845.

TO HIS FRIEND AND FELLOW LABORER IN THE GOSPEL,

REV. HOSEA BALLOU, 2d,

In this little volume respectfully inscribed, as a slight token of long
cherished affection and esteem, by

THE AUTHOR.

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ORIGIN
OF THE DOCTRINE OF
ENDLESS PUNISHMENT.

Can the rush grow up without mire ? Can the flag grow
without water ? Job viii. 11.

For the last half century or more, as is well known, an active controversy has been going on in this country, and to some extent in the most enlightened parts of Europe also, in relation to the final destiny of the human race, or rather, perhaps I should say, in relation to the destiny of an important portion of the race. For it is agreed on all sides in Christendom, that the virtuous, the good in the christian sense of the term—those who have lived in accordance with the requirements of our holy religion, and died in possession of its faith and hopes—shall in the world to come be received to heaven and exalted to a state of felicity beyond all that our poor hearts are here able even to conceive. But this favored class embraces, unfortunately, but a small portion even of the christian world ; for we behold on every hand unbelief