

Fear not only for what he has, or has not done,--but also fear lest unintentionally he may cast his lot with the damned.

Religion has a bloody and unrelenting background. In its worst phases it has caused the sacrifice of millions. It attempts to break the will of the individual, so that he will kowtow to the Witch Doctor or the High Priest. Outstanding was the notorious Dominican, who presided over the inquisition, and cruelly tortured thousands, that their punishment here on earth might appease the angry God, created by man to replace the loving God, on whom Christian faith was originally founded.

Christ brought forth a doctrine of Love, but its cardinal principle of a loving father who wished to give good gifts to his children was soon buried under the accumulated trash of centuries, and even yet is not so often mentioned in our pulpits as it should be, to nourish the hungry souls of men.

We ask, "Does the fear of hell damn mankind to lives of frustration, or of limited accomplishment?"

Would it not be far better to fill our lives with an earnest effort to be a force for good, rather than to tremble lest in some way we may do wrong? Do we not put a penalty upon efforts to enlarge our fields of thought and action? Do we put a premium on wearing blinders and ear stoppers, while we tell beads, or finger the mute image of Him who gave his life in a supreme effort to free the minds of men from the tyranny of the Torah and other man made rules, of so called virtues.

How lamentably we have failed to grasp that the kindness and care of the passing Samaritan to the unfortunate man on the road to Jericho, counted far more than the tithing of mint and cummin, and the washing of hands.