

# The Saint's Horror at the Sinner's Hell

by C.H. Spurgeon

*The sermon emphasizes the importance of fearing God and avoiding the contamination and distraction of sinners, and encourages believers to pray for a holy and righteous life.*

**Duration:** 49:53

**Scripture:** Numbers 16:1-35, Psalm 26:9, Matthew 6:33, John 15:6, Hebrews 10:31, Revelation 14:18-20

**Topics:** "Divine Judgment", "Eternal Consequences"

## Description

In this sermon, the preacher begins by discussing the gathering of sinners and the consequences they face. He uses the example of the rebellion of Korah and his followers, who were swallowed up by the earth as punishment for their defiance. The preacher then shifts focus to a greater gathering that is happening every day, where God is gathering his enemies to ultimately destroy them. He compares this gathering to a huntsman surrounding his prey, emphasizing the divine power and justice at play. The sermon concludes by discussing the gathering of souls in the afterlife, where sinners await judgment before the ultimate judge.

## Transcript

The Metropolitan Tabernacle Pulpit The Saints' Horror at the Sinner's Hell The sermon delivered on Sunday morning, August 16th, 1863 by the Reverend C. H. Spurgeon at the Metropolitan Tabernacle, Newington.

Psalm 26, verse 9 Gather not my soul with sinners We must all be gathered in due course When time shall have ripened the fruit It must hang no longer upon the tree But be gathered into the basket When the summer sun has perfectly matured the corn The sickle must be brought forth And the harvest must be reaped To everything there is a season and an end There shall be a gathering time for every one of us It may come tomorrow It may be deferred another handful of years It may come to us by the long process of consumption or decline It may advance with more rapid footsteps And we may in a moment be gathered to our people Sooner or later, to use the expressive words of Job, The Almighty shall set His heart upon each of us And gather unto Himself our spirit and our breath That gathering rests

with God The prayer of the psalmist implies it And many scriptures affirm it As young sings in his night thoughts An angel's arm can't hurl me to the grave Accidents are but God's arrangements Diseases are His decrees Fevers His servants and plagues His messengers Our mortality is immortal till the Eternal wills its death Return, ye children of men, can be spoken by none but our Heavenly Father And when He

gives the word, return we must without delay I do not know, my brethren, seeing that our death is certain And remains entirely in the hands of our gracious God That there is any prayer which we need to offer concerning it Except, Father, into Thy hands I commit my spirit And this brief sentence Gather not my soul with sinners Scarcely can I commend those who plead to be delivered from

sudden death For sudden death is sudden glory Hardly can I advise you to request a hasty departure For flesh and blood shrink from speedy dissolution Pray not for long life nor for an early grave Cheerfully leave all these matters to the choice of infinite wisdom And concentrate all your desires upon the one desire of the text Filled with the holy horror of the hell of sinners Let us make most sure our calling to the heaven of the blessed Let the fear of being cast forth with the withered branches Increase our fruitfulness And let our horror of the sinner's character in doom Lead us to cleave more closely to the Saviour of souls We will divide our discourse thus First, the gathering And here let us behold a vision Next, the prayer And here let us note an example Thirdly, a fear And here

let us observe a holy anxiety And then fourthly, an answer Yielding a consolation First, the gathering Let the man who hath his eyes open Behold the gathering of sinners And in the sanctuary of the Lord let him understand their end There have been many partial gatherings of the ungodly All ending in sudden ruin and overthrow Turn your eyes hither Two hundred and fifty men have impudently taken censers into their hands And have dishonored the Lord's chosen servants, Moses and Aaron Mark well their proud revilings of the Lord's anointed In the gain saying of Korah, they have all a part The people hasten from their tabernacles and they stand alone It is but for a moment See, the earth cleaveth us under They go down alive into the pit And the earth closes her mouth upon them My soul trembleth

and hideth her face for fear And my fainting heart groaneth out her desire Gather not my soul with sinners Look yonder, my brethren To the city of palm trees surrounded by its strong munitions All the inhabitants are gathered together within it From the top of the walls they mock the feeble band of silent Israelites Who for six days have marched round and round their city The seventh day has come And the ram's horns give the signal of destruction The Lord cometh forth from his rest And at the tear of his rebuke the walls of Jericho fall flat to the ground Now, where are your boastings, O congregation of the wicked?

The sword of Israel is bathed in your blood, O accursed sons of Canaan As we hear the shriek of the slaughtered And mark the smoke of the city ascending up to heaven like the flame of Sodom of old We reverently bow the knee unto Jehovah and cry Gather not my soul with sinners Leaping over centuries, with weeping we behold the holy city Beautiful for situation, once the joy of the whole earth But now forsaken of her God and beleaguered by her foes All the Jewish people have come together from the four winds of heaven As the flesh is cast into the cauldron and the fire burneth fiercely So are they gathered together for judgment Well might their rejected Messiah weep over the devoted city As he remembered how often he would have gathered her children together As a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and they would not Now are they gathered in another manner And the wings of eagles flutter over them, hastening for the prey See yonder the Roman armies and the mounds which they have cast up Woe unto thee, O city of Zion, for the spoilers know no pity They spare neither young nor old Blessed are the barren and the wombs that never bear And the paps which never gave suck For the day of the Lord's vengeance is come And the words of Moses are fulfilled when he said The Lord shall bring a nation against thee from afar From the end of the earth as swift as the eagle flyeth A nation whose tongue thou shalt not understand A nation of fierce countenance which shall not regard The person of the old nor show favor to the young And thou shalt eat the fruit of thine own body The flesh of thy sons and of thy daughters Which the Lord thy God hath given thee in the siege And in the straightness wherewith thine enemy shall distress

thee Hark! the clarion summons the warrior to arms The veterans of Vespasian and Titus dash to the assault Where art thou now, O city, polluted with the murder of prophets And stained with the blood of the prophet's lord?

Thy walls protect not thy sons They keep not the temple of thy glory See, a soldier's ruthless hand hurls the red firebrand Into the sacred precincts of the temple And its smoke darkens the sky Can ye walk those moldering ruins And behold the heaps of ashes mingled with burning flesh The crimson streams of gore and the deep pools of clotted blood?

Can ye linger there where desolation holds her reign supreme And refuse to see the justice of the God of Israel Or fail to breathe the humble prayer of the psalmist Gather not my soul within us Wherever the enemies of God are gathered There we have our long confusion and tears and death In whatever place sinners may hold their counsels When the judge of all the earth cometh out against them We soon see in Alcadama a field of blood Forgetting all these inferior gatherings Illustrious in where though they be My eye beholds a greater gathering Which is proceeding every day to its completion Every day the heavens and the earth hear the voice of God saying Gather ye, gather ye my foes together That I may utterly destroy them Therefore wait ye upon me, saith the Lord Until the day that I rise

up to the prey For my determination is to gather the nations That I may assemble the kingdoms To pour upon them mine indignation Even all my fierce anger For all the earth shall be devoured with the fire of my jealousy As the huntsman when he goes forth to the Batuu Encompasses the beasts of the forest With an ever narrowing ring of hunters That he may exterminate them all in one great slaughter And so the God of justice Has made a ring in his providence round about The sinful sons of men Within that circle of divine power Are imprisoned monarchs and peasants, peers and paupers That ring encompasses all nations Polite or barbarous, civilized or rude No impenitent sinner can break through the lines As well might a worm escape from within a circle of flame Every hour the lines grow narrower

And the multitudes of the Lord's enemies are driven into the center Where his darts are flying Where his sharp arrows shall pierce them I hear the baying of the dogs of death today Hounding the unbelieving to their doom I see the heaps of slain and mark the terrible arrows As they fly with unerring aim Multitudes of sinners are scattered from the equator to the poles But not one of them is able to escape the avenger's hand High and haughty princes Boasting their imperial pomp Fall like anthered stags Smitten with the shafts of the Almighty While their valiant warriors like wild boars of the forest Perish upon the point of his glittering spear The vision of the apocalypse is no mere dream He whose name is the word of God Shall tread the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God

And meanwhile the angel standing in the sun Crieth with a loud voice to all the fowls Which fly in the midst of heaven Come and gather yourselves together under the supper of the great God That you may eat the flesh of kings And the flesh of captains And the flesh of mighty men And the flesh of horses And of them that sit on them And the flesh of all men Both free and born, both small and great At the remembrance of all this We may well exclaim with Habakkuk When I heard my belly trembled My lips quivered at the voice Rottenness entered into my bones And I trembled in myself that I might rest in the day of trouble When he cometh up unto the people He will cut them in pieces with his troops O thou God of all grace, I pray thee By the atoning sacrifice of Jesus in which I trust Gather not

my soul with sinners Let that providence which gathereth thy people from among men Lay hold on me Let thine angels who keep watch and ward about thy people Keep me from the snare of the fowler And from

the destruction which wasteth at noonday But the scene changes We see no longer the assembling of the multitudes In the great valley of the shadow of death But we track them further Till we find ourselves on the threshold of the abode of spirits Ye have seen the prisoners in their cells Waiting for their trial at the next assize The strong hand of the law has laid them endurance Where they await the summons to appear before the judge I pray you, note the company And before the trumpet announces the judge See what a strange gathering the prison house contains Do you mark them?

There is the murderer with blood-red hand There is he who smote his fellow to his wounding Yonder lies the wretch who perjured himself before God And here the man who pilfered his neighbor's goods However they differed from one another before They are on a level in rank in this house of detention And they all await one common gale delivery It is no pleasant sight to visit these cells before the assize comes on Crime, although as yet uncondemned, is no comfortable vision But what of earthly prisons?

My heart sees a sight far more terrible Look down, my soul, on hell's domains That world of agony and pains What crowds are now associate there Of widely different character What wretched ghosts are met below Some once so great, so little now So gay, so sad, so rich, so poor Now scorned by those they scorned before Multitudes are gathered together in this state Where souls abide until their final doom Is pronounced both on their bodies and on their souls A place of misery where not a drop of water cools their parched tongue A state of doubt and terror and suspense A place from which consolation is banished Where the wrath to come perpetually afflicts them There in captivity abide the formalist The hypocrite, the profane The licentious, the abandoned Those who despised God and hated Christ And turned away from the glory of His cross There they are gathered, tens of thousands of them at this day Waiting till the great assize shall sit O God, gather not my soul with sinners But let me be gathered with those whose spirits wait beneath the altar For their redemption to wit, the resurrection of their bodies Gather me with those who cry day and night Until God avenge His own elect Gather me with the multitude of spirits Who wait the coming of the Son of God from heaven That their bliss may be complete But now my eye, prophetic in the light of Scripture Sees another gathering The trumpet has sounded The prison doors are loosed And the gates of death give way They come, bodies and souls Souls from the place of waiting in the pit of hell And bodies from their graves from ocean and from earth From all the four winds of heaven Bodies and souls come together And there they stand, an exceeding great army This time it is not in the valley of suspense But multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision The Lord shall utter His voice before His army For His camp is very great For He is strong that executeth His word For the day of the Lord is great and very terrible And who can abide it?

Assemble yourselves and come, all ye heathen And gather yourselves together round about Thither cause thy mighty ones to come down, O Lord Let the heathen be wakened And come up to the valley of Jehoshaphat For there will I sit To judge all the heathen round about Put ye in the sickle For the harvest is ripe Come, get you down For the press is full The fats overflow For their wickedness is great And I saw a great white throne And Him that sat on it From whose face the earth and the heaven fled away And there was found no place for them And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God And the books were opened And another book was opened, which is the book of life And the dead were judged out of those things Which were written in the books according to their works And the sea gave up

the dead which were in it And death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them And they were judged, every man, according to their works And whosoever was not found written in the book of life Was cast into the lake of fire O, well may you and I pray that we may have a part in the first resurrection Upon such the second death hath no power Grant us, O Lord, that we may not be with the wicked The rest of

the dead who rise not until after a thousand years are finished But give thou us a portion among those whose iniquities are blotted out Who have not received the mark of the beast in their foreheads Who therefore live and reign with Christ a thousand years May we be gathered with the harvest of the Lord When He that sits on the cloud Shall reap it with His golden sickle But this

gathering of which my text speaks Is not the harvest of the righteous But the vintage of the wicked When the angel which had power over fire shall cry Thrust in thy sharp sickle And gather the clusters of the vine of the earth For her grapes are fully ripe How dreadful that great winepress of divine wrath Which shall be trodden without the city And how terrible that flow of blood Like a mighty stream of wine So deep that it ran even under the horse's bridles By the space of a thousand and six hundred furlongs Gather not my soul with sinners, O God, in that tremendous day I need not stop to paint For colors equal to its tears I have none That dreadful place where the last gathering shall be held That great synagogue of Satan The place appointed for unbelievers And prepared for the devil

and his angels Where sullen moans and hollow groans And shrieks of tortured ghosts Shall be their only music Where weeping, wailing, and gnashing of teeth Shall be their perpetual occupation Where joy is a stranger and hope unknown Where death itself would be a friend No, I will not attempt to describe What our Savior veiled in words like these These shall go away into everlasting punishment Where their worm dieth not and their fire is not quenched Outer darkness, where shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth We drop the curtain Hoping that you have seen enough to make you pray Gather not my soul with sinners Dear brethren When we recollect That that last gathering will be a perfect one That there will be no sinner left with the saints That, on the other hand, no saint will remain with

sinners When we recollect that it will be a final one No redistribution will ever be made And that it will entail an everlasting separation A great gulf being fixed Which none can cross It remains for us to be solemnly anxious To be found on the right hand And to put up with vehemence this prayer O Lord, gather not my soul with sinners Having thus shown the vision of the gathering Let me with deep solemnity Conduct your minds for a little time To the prayer itself I am sure we are all agreed about it, every one of us Balaam, if he be here this morning, differs not from me The worst and most abandoned wretch on earth agrees with David in this Sinners do not wish to be gathered with sinners Balaam's prayer is Let me die the death of the righteous And let my last end be like his Which only

differs in words from David's petition Gather not my soul with sinners But then, the reasons of the one prayer Are very different in different persons We would all like to be saved from hell But then, there is a difference in the reasons why we would so be delivered The same prayer may be uttered by different lips In the one it may be heard and accepted as spiritual prayer And in the other it may be but the natural excitement produced by a selfish desire to avoid misery Now I know why you would not wish to be gathered with sinners Those of you who are ungodly and impenitent You dread the fire The flames which no abatement know You dread the wrath, the suffering You dread the horrors of that world to come Not so with the Christian These he dreads as all men must But he has a higher and a

better reason for not wishing to be gathered with sinners I tell you, sirs, if sinners could be gathered into heaven with their present character The Christian's prayer would be what it now is Gather not my soul with sinners If sin entails happiness If rebellion against God could give bliss Even then the Christian would scorn the happiness and avoid the bliss which sin affords For his objection is not so much to hell as to sinners themselves His desire is to avoid the contamination and distraction of their company Many of you will say Now I dislike the company of sinners Indeed, most moral people dislike the society of a certain

class of sinners I suppose there is scarcely one here today who would wish to be found in the den of the burglar Where the conversation is concerning plunder and

violence You would not probably feel very easy in the haunt of the harlot Where licentious tongues utter flippantly lascivious words You shun the house of the strange woman The pothouse is not a favorite resort for you You would not feel very much at ease at the bar of the djinn palace You would say of each of these, this is no joy to me Even those of you who are not renewed by Christ Despise vice when she walks abroad naked I fear me ye cannot say as much When she puts on her silver slippers And wraps about her shoulders her scarlet mantle Sin in rags is not popular Vice in sores and squalor tempts no one In the grosser shapes men hate the very fiend whom they love When it is refined and delicate in its form I want to know whether you can say Gather not my soul with sinners When you see

the ungodly in their high days and holidays Do you not envy the fraudulent merchant counting his gold His purse heavy with his gains While he himself by his craft is beyond all challenge by the law Do you not envy the giddy revelers Spending the night in the merry dance Laughing, making merry with wine And smiling with the thoughts of lust Yonder of a luxury entering the abode Where virtue never finds a place And indulging in pleasures unworthy to be named in this hallowed house Does he never excite your envy I ask you, when you see the pleasures The bright side, the honors, the emoluments The gains, the merriments of sin Do ye then say, gather not my soul with sinners There is a class of sinners That some would wish to be gathered with Those easy souls who go on so swimmingly They never

have any trouble Conscience never pricks them Business never goes wrong with them They have no bands in their life, no bonds in their death They are not in trouble as other men Neither are they plagued like other men They are like the green bay tree which spreads on every side Until its boughs cover whole acres with their shade These are the men who prosper in the world They increase in riches Can we say when we look at these When we gaze upon the bright side of the wicked Gather not my soul with sinners Remember, if we cannot do so without reservation We really cannot pray the prayer at all We ought to alter it and put it Gather not my soul with openly reprobate sinners And then mark you As there is only one place for all sorts of sinners Moral or immoral Apparently holy or profane Your

prayer cannot be heard For if you are gathered with sinners at all With the best of sinners You must be gathered with the worst of sinners too I know, children of God Ye can offer the prayer as it stands and say In all their glory and their pomp In all their wealth, their peace and their comfort My soul abhors them And I earnestly beseech thee, O Lord By the blood of Jesus Gather not my soul with sinners Brethren Why does the Christian pray this prayer?

He prays it, first of all Because as far as his acquaintance goes with sinners Even now he does not wish for their company The company of sinners in this world to the saint Is a cause of uneasiness We cannot be with them and feel ourselves perfectly at home My soul is among lions Even among them that are set on fire of hell Rid me from strange children We are vexed with their conversation Even as Lot was with the language of the men of Sodom We lay an embargo upon them They cannot act as they would in our society And they lay a restraint upon us We cannot act as we would when we are with them We feel an hindrance in our holy duties Through dwelling in the tents of Kedar When we would talk of God we cannot in the midst of company To whom the very name of Jesus is a theme for jest How can we well engage in family devotions When more than half the family are given up to the world?

How can we sing the Lord's song in a strange land? You who sojourn in Meshach You know how great a grief it is What a damper it is to your spirituality What a serious hindrance it is to your growth in grace Besides the company tempts believers to sin Who can keep his garment pure when he travels with black companions? If I am condemned to walk continually in the midst of thorns and briars It is strange if I do not mar my garments Often our nearest friends get a hold upon our hearts And then being enemies to God they lead us to do things Which we otherwise would never have dreamed of doing The company of the sinner is to the Christian a matter of real loss In another respect For when God comes to punish a nation The Christian has to suffer with the sinners of that nation National judgments fall as well upon the holy as upon the profane And hence through being mingled with the ungodly of this world The Christian is a sufferer by famine, war or pestilence Well may he, from the little taste he is known of their company cry Gather not my soul with sinners Why brethren, I will put you for a moment to the test You shall be in the commercial room of an inn You are on a journey And you sit down to attend to your own business Or to await the train Now if two or three fast men come into the room And they begin venting their filth and blasphemy How do you feel?

You do not wish to hear You wish you were deaf One of them cannot speak without larding his conversation with an oath There is another perhaps, a man elevated above the situation Which his education fits him to occupy Who in his conversation utters the most abominable and atrocious language And the others laugh at him Before many minutes you will steal out of the room For you cannot endure it What must it be to be shut in with such persons forever? On board a steamboat it may be you fall into the middle of a little knot Who are talking on some infidel subject in a manner far from palatable to you Have you not whisked yourself on shore?

And have you not walked to the other end of the boat to be out of their way? I know you have felt that kind of thing Your blood has chilled Horror has taken hold upon you Because of the wicked who keep not God's law If such has been your experience You can well understand the reason of the psalmist's prayer For much of such torment you could not bear Moreover, I do not know any class of sinners whose company a Christian would desire I should not like to live with the most precise of hypocrites What ugly company to keep You cannot trust them anywhere, always hollow Always ready to deceive and to betray you I would not choose to live with formalists, self-righteous people Because whenever they begin to talk about themselves and their own good deeds They do, as it were, throw dirt upon the righteousness of Christ Which is our boast, and that is ill company for a Christian The believer triumphs in the free grace of God The power of the Holy Spirit and the efficacy of the blood of Jesus But the self-righteous man speaks only of his church goings and his chapel goings His fastings and his almsgivings and the like We cannot agree with the self-truster We could almost as well associate with the profane as we could with the self-righteous As for blasphemers, we could not endure them a moment Would you not as soon be shut up in a tiger's den as with a cursing, swearing, thievish profligate Who can endure the company of either a Voltaire or a Manning Find out the miserly, the mean, the sneaking, the grasping, who likes to be with them The angry, the petulant, who never try to check the unholy passion One is always glad to be away from such folks You are afraid lest you should be held responsible for their mad actions And therefore if you must be with them, you are always ill at ease With no sort of sinners can the child of God be hail fellow Lambs and wolves, doves and hawks, devils and angels are not fit companions And so through what little trial the righteous have had They have learned that there is no sort of sinners that they would like to be shut up with forever But then we have other reasons We know that when impenitent sinners are gathered at the last Their characters will be the same They were filthy here, they will be filthy still Here on earth their sin was in the bud, in hell it will be full blown If they were bad here, they will be worse there Here they were

restrained by providence, by company, by custom There, there will be no restraints And hell will be a world of sinners at large, a land of outlaws A place where every man shall follow out his own heart's most horrible inclinations Who would wish to be with them?

Then again, the place where they will be gathered alarms us The pit of hell, the abode of misery and wrath forever Who would be gathered there? Then, their occupation They spend their time in cursing God, in inventing and venting fresh blasphemies They go from bad to worse, climbing down the awful ladder of detestable depravity Who would wish to be with them? Remember too, their sufferings The pain of body and of soul they know When God has cast both body and soul into hell Who would wish to be with them?

Recollect too, that they are banished forever from God And God is our sun, therefore they are in darkness God is our life, therefore they are worse than dead God is our joy, therefore they are wretched in the extreme Why, this would be hell, if there were no other hell to a Christian to be banished from his God And moreover, they are denied the joys of Christ's society No Saviour's love for them, no blissful communion at his right hand No living fountains of water to which the Lamb shall lead them Oh my God, when I think of what the sinner is and where he is And how he must be there forever, shut out from thee My soul may well pray with anguish that prayer Gather not my soul with sinners, thou lovely chief of all my joys Thou sovereign of my heart, how could I bear to hear thy voice

Pronounce the sound, depart Oh wretched state of deep despair, to see my God remove And fix my doleful station where I must not taste his love Jesus, I throw my arms around and hang upon thy breast Without a gracious smile from thee, my spirit cannot rest But I am afraid I weary you And therefore, dear friends, let me take you very briefly to the third point There is in our text a fear As if a whisper awakened the psalmist's ear to trembling Perhaps, after all, you may be gathered with the wicked Now that fear, although marred by unbelief Springs in the main from holy anxiety Do you not think that some of us may well be the subjects of it This holy anxiety may well arise if we recollect our past sin Before we were converted, we lived as others lived The lusts of the flesh were ours We

indulged our members, we permitted sin to reign in our mortal bodies without restraint And there will be times to the pardoned man, even though he has faith in Christ When he will begin to think What if after all those sins should be remembered And I should be left out of the catalogue of the saved Then again he recollects his present backwardness And as the little apple on the tree, so sour and unripe When it sees the crabs gathered, as half afraid it may be gathered with them So is he, with so little grace, so little love He is afraid he shall be gathered with the ungodly He recollects his own unfruitfulness And as he sees the woodman going round the orchard Knocking off first this rotten bough and then cutting off the other decayed branch He thinks there is so little fruit on him

Perhaps he may be cut off too And so, what with his past sin, his present backsliding and unfruitfulness He is half afraid he may yet have to suffer the doom of the wicked And then looking forward to the future He recollects his own weakness And the many temptations that beset him And he fears that he may fall after all and become a prey to the enemy With all these things before him I wonder not that the poor plant set yonder in the garden Is half afraid that it may be pulled up with the weeds And burned on yonder blazing fire in the corner of the garden Gather not my soul with sinners What man is there among you who is not need sometimes to tremble for himself If any of you can say you are always confident It is more than I can say I would to God I could always know myself saved and

accepted in Christ But there are times when a sense of sin within And present evil and prevailing corruptions Make the preacher feel that he is in jeopardy And compel him to pray as he does sometimes now in fear and trembling Oh God, gather not my soul with sinners And here comes in to conclude the answer to this prayer Which is a word of consolation Brother, if you have prayed this prayer And if your character be rightly described in the psalm before us Be not afraid that you ever shall be gathered with sinners Have you the two things that David had The outward walking in integrity And the inward trusting in the Lord Do you endeavor to make your outward conduct And conversation conformable to the example of Christ Would you scorn to be dishonest toward men Or to be undevout toward God At

the same time are you resting upon Jesus Christ sacrifice And can you compass the altar of God with humble hope If so, then rest assured with the wicked You never shall be gathered For there are one or two things Which render that calamity impossible The first is this That the rule of the gathering Is like to like Gather ye together first the tares And bind them in bundles to burn them All the tares together But gather the wheat into my barn It is not make a mixture of them Throw them together in a heap Put the corn and tares in my garner Oh no Tares in bundles, wheat in sheaves If then thou art like God's people Thou shalt be with God's people If thou hast their life within Their character without If thou retest on their Savior If thou lovest their God If thou hast a longing towards

their holiness Thou shalt be gathered with them Like to like There is another rule Those who have been our proper comrades here Are to be our companions hereafter God will be pleased to send us Where we wish to go in this life That is to say If in this life I have loved the haunt of the sinner If I have made the theater my sanctuary If I have made the drinking house my abode of pleasure If I have found my solace with the gambler And my comfort with the debauchee If I have lived merely for business and for this world And never for the next Then I shall go with my companions I shall be sent where I used to go Being let go I shall go to my own company among the lost But on the other hand If I have loved God's house If I can say with the psalmist I have loved the habitation of thy house And

the place where thine honor dwelleth If the excellent of the earth have been my companions And the chosen of God have been my brethren I shall not be separated from them I shall have the same company in heaven That I have had on earth If I have walked with God here I shall reign with God there If I have suffered with Christ here I shall reign with Christ hereafter That that is another thing Which prevents your being gathered with the wicked Again You cannot be gathered with the wicked For you are too dearly bought Christ bought you with blood And he will not cast you into the fire It is a doctrine we never can hold That Christ redeemed with his precious blood Any that are damned in hell We cannot conceive it possible That Christ should have stood there Sponsoring suffering And yet they

should be punished too That he should pay the debt And then they should have to pay it also And again You are loved too much God the eternal father has loved you long and well And proved that to you by his great gift And by his daily consideration and care of you And it is not therefore possible That he should permit you The darling of his heart The child of his desire A member of the mystical body of his only beloved son To perish forever in Tophet Again That new nature within you Will not let you be gathered with sinners What does your new nature do?

What must it do? It must love God What? Love God and be in hell Your new nature must pray What? Pray in the pit Your new nature must praise the God that created it What? Sing songs to the divine being Amidst the howling of the damned Impossible If thou hast a new heart and a right spirit If thy soul clings with both its hands to the cross of Christ If thou lovest Jesus and longest to be like him Thou mayest have this fear

But it is a groundless one For thou shalt never be gathered with sinners But thy feet shall stand in the congregation of the righteous In the day when the wicked are cast away forever I had hoped this morning so To have handled my text That may have God might bless it to the sinner And who can tell?

It may be so Sinner If it be a dreadful thing to be gathered with thee What a frightful thing thy gathering must be My dear here Careless and thoughtless This morning I have no fervid words with which to awake you No earnest tones with which to startle you But still From my soul I do entreat you consider That if it be a subject of horror to us To dwell with you forever It must be an awful thing to be a sinner And wilt thou be a sinner any longer? Wilt thou abide where thou now art?

Alas Thou canst not save thyself Thou art hopelessly ruined Thou hast lost all power as well as all virtue Thou art as a dead thing As a potter's vessel that is broken to shivers with a rod of iron But there is one who can save thee Even Jesus And his saving voice to thee this morning is Believe in me and thou shalt be saved To believe in him Is to believe that he can save thee And therefore to trust Dost thou not believe that of him who is God? Canst thou not believe that of him whose ways are not as thy ways Whose grace is boundless and whose love is free?

Wilt thou now believe that Christ can save thee And that he will save thee? And wilt thou now trust thyself to him to save thee? Say in thy heart Here Lord I give my soul up to thee to save it I believe thou wilt and thou canst Thy nature and thy name are love And I trust thy name I believe in thy goodness I repose in thee Sinner You are saved God has saved you No soul ever so believed in Christ and yet was left unpardoned Go thy way be of good cheer Thy sins which are many are all forgiven thee Rejoice thou in him evermore For thou shalt never be gathered with sinners May God give his blessing to you now For Jesus Christ's sake Amen

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Audio: <https://sermonindex1.b-cdn.net/13/SID13738.mp3>

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