embolden them to persevere in the way of sin, with the  
hope that no threats of God could apply to His elect.  
 Three blessed results attach to their position of trust  
and honour.  
 1. “Over these the SECOND DEATH hath no  
authority.”  
 We have first the negative advantage. No punishment is theirs. There are in the Apocalypse two  
Deaths, a present and a future. Both are *places*. The  
first Death, or the bottomless pit, exists now. Jesus  
holds its keys. i. 18. The Second Death is the lake of  
fire; as the chapter teaches. Ver. 14. Exemption from  
this latter is a promise to the conquerors of the  
churches.  
 The promise made to the conquerors of the churches  
during the time of their previous life is now fulfilled.  
“He that overcometh shall not be hurt by the second  
death.” These, then, are in great part the overcomers  
from among Christ’s churches.  
 This statement sounds strangely in our ears: for we  
are quite accustomed to forget that even those justified  
by faith will be recompensed according to their works.  
Matt. xvi. 24-27; Rev. xxii. 12. Here it is implied  
that over some greatly offending believers the Second  
Death may have authority.  
 “And his lord was wroth, and delivered him to the  
tormentors, till he should pay all that was due unto  
him. *So likewise shall my heavenly Father do also unto  
you, if ye from your hearts forgive not every one his  
brother their trespasses*” (Matt. xviii. 34, 35).  
 “Not in the lust of concupiscence, even as the Gentiles which know not God. That no man go beyond  
and defraud his brother in the matter: because that the  
Lord is the avenger of all such, as we also have forewarned you  
and testified” (1 Thess. iv. 5, 6).  
 The promise of escaping this was made to the angel of