

# Unbelief

David Hume, the famous philosopher and sceptic, was once dining at the house of a friend. After dinner, in the course of conversation, Hume made a remark which made another say, "If you can advance such sentiments as those, you certainly are what the world gives you credit for being, an infidel." A little girl of whom the philosopher was very fond and to whom he often brought presents, overhearing that, left the room and went to her mother, and asked her, "Mamma, what is an infidel?" "An infidel, my dear," replied the mother, "why should you ask such a question?" "An infidel is so awful a character, that I scarcely know how to answer you." Struck with her daughter's serious insistence, she at length replied, "An infidel is one who believes that there is no God, no heaven no hell, no hereafter."

Some days afterwards Hume visited the home again. On being received into the sitting room, he found his favourite little girl. He went to take her up into his arms and give her a kiss, as he had been used to do; but the child shrank with horror

from his touch. "My dear", he said, "what is the matter? – do I hurt you?" "No", she replied, "you do not hurt me; but I cannot give you a kiss, I cannot play with you." "Why not, my dear?" "Because you are an infidel." "An infidel! – what is that?" "One who believes there is no God, no heaven, no hell, and no hereafter."

Astonished, the philosopher asked, "And are you not sorry for me, my child?"

"Yes, indeed I am sorry!" she said, with solemnity; "and I pray to God for you."

"Do you, indeed, and what do you say?" replied Hume. The little girl, looking straight at him, said, "I say, O God, teach this man what Thou art!"

This is surely a striking illustration of words found in the Bible, "Out of the mouths of babes and sucklings thou hast ordained strength, because of thine enemies, that thou mightest still the enemy and avenger." (Psalm 8:2)

**Dr. William Anderson (1893)**