

Sin, alas ! was there. It was manifested by the position in which this wondrous Infant was found. But if sin had placed Him there, grace had placed Him there. Grace super-abounds ; and in thinking of *Him*, blessing, grace, the mind of God respecting sin, that which God is as manifested by the presence of Christ, absorb the mind and possess the heart, and are the heart's true relief in a world like this. We see grace alone ; and sin does but magnify the fulness, the sovereignty, the perfection, of that grace. God in His glorious dealings blots out the sin with respect to which He acts, and which He thus exhibits in all its deformity ; but there is that which "much more aboundeth." Jesus come in grace, fills the heart. It is the same thing in all the details of Christian life. It is the true source of moral power, of sanctification, and of joy.

We see next, that there are three things brought out by the presence of Jesus born as a child on the earth. First, glory to God in the highest. The love of God, His wisdom, His power, not in creating a universe out of nothing, but in rising above the evil, and turning the effect of all the enemy's power into an occasion of showing that this power was only impotence and folly, in presence of that which may be called "the weakness of God ;" the fulfillment of His eternal counsels ; the perfection of His ways where evil had come in ; the manifestation of Himself amidst the evil in such a manner as to glorify Himself before the