

respects not persons, even in the relationship of grace. "Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ; as obedient children, not fashioning yourselves according to the former lusts in your ignorance; but as He which hath called you is holy, so *be ye* holy in all manner of conversation; because it is written, "Be ye holy; for I am holy. And if ye call on the Father, who without respect of persons judgeth according to every man's work, pass the time of your sojourning here in fear" (v. 13-17).

As to future or final salvation, there is divine *certainty*: "Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time" (v. 5), Kept by God's power! How could this fail? The same by which Christ was raised out of death. Power, observe, *over death*, "the last enemy that shall be destroyed" (1 Cor. xv. 26). But it was through faith in Him who raised and glorified Christ. Faith, therefore, though imperishable, itself God's gift (Eph. ii. 8), and precious, must be tested, hence trials. But, can proving it, fail to result in establishing perfect confidence in Him whose power guards us at all times and in all circumstances? See Job i. 10 and xlii. 1-8.

Now, after this instruction, the trials that had tended to discourage, served the very opposite, for they were the means of proving the tender care of their God and Father who had chosen them according to foreknowledge, and set them apart by the Spirit