

they pleaded the mercies as an excuse for not accepting the provision of grace, and I am sure there is much wisdom in God's withholding such from many of His beloved people, lest their hearts should be ormed on earth. But He did not withhold His beloved Son."

In the next letter he thanks again for some little gifts, and says: "How precious the grace that has taken us up and made us children as well as heirs, and given us the Holy Spirit, who bears witness with our spirit that we are in this blessed relationship to God, and produces in us suited affections by making known to us the love the Father has bestowed upon us. There is a tendency in our hearts to look back and dwell on the love bestowed upon us, or to look forward to the glory we are called unto, and forget the present favor in which we stand. Now I feel, if we are not looking up in the present and enjoying the love of the Father as a present reality we will be defective in our apprehension of it as displayed in the past, or what that love has called us into in the future. How increasingly precious that love becomes to us 'If God be for you,' as our souls deepen in the true knowledge of God as revealed in Christ, and to be able in simple faith to put over against all our path the fact that God is for us, and His present love towards us is that He makes all work for our good, even what may be most adverse and trying. Did we but enter more fully into this love our one desire would be that He should order all our path in His love and wisdom, thus peace passing all

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