

purposes of a sanctified spirit, with full and unwearied efficiency. We groan, but murmur not, for we expect deliverance in the fulness of time.

Ver. 24. "For we are saved by hope : but hope that is seen is not hope : for what a man seeth, why doth he yet hope for ?" We regard this future salvation of the body as a thing realised in hope.

In reference to the redemption of the body, of which he had just been speaking, we are saved by hope : for the time for this salvation is yet future. He does not here allude to the salvation of the soul. For this, "now is the accepted time ;" hence this is received by faith. This salvation being the first fruits of the Spirit, they had already in possession. But the salvation of the body, being as yet unfelt and unseen, may be hoped for. And, regarding it as a thing that will certainly take place in our own case, we may say we are saved by hope.

Ver. 25. But if we hope for that we see not, *then* do we with patience wait for it." Certain hope causes patient waiting.

Though hope does not prevent the sufferer from feeling and groaning, it gives him the sustaining power of patience under afflictions. It looks a little into the future, and sees them passing away. And it views the end at which afflictions aim as more desirable than a premature release, which would leave the design wholly or partially unfilled.

The sustaining effort of human hope is great, but is not sufficient ; and hence is not left alone.

Ver. 26, 27. "Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities : for we know not what we should pray for as we ought ; but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. And He that searcheth the hearts, knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because He maketh intercession for the saints according to *the will of God.*" The Divine Spirit aids their bodily infirmities to sustain the sufferings.

The word translated "helpeth," expresses the idea of co-operation. The Spirit, working beside hope, co-operates with it, in helping our