

pleasing to God. So Enoch was not only justified, but he had the present enjoyment of favour. "Before his translation he had this testimony, that he pleased God." He was, as it were, walking in the joy of the Father's smile.

Ver. 5. "How goodly are thy tents," etc. This illustrates the aspect of the church of God now, through the Spirit (Eph. ii. 22). It is more than man was in paradise. There was then no dwelling nor tabernacle of God. By and by His tabernacle will be with men. But as being in the standing of the church, we are taken, as it were, into God's paradise now. We "are builded together for a habitation of God through the Spirit." If the church is divided and scattered, it is held in God's hand. "The wolf, coming, catcheth them, and scattereth the sheep;" but again it is said, "none shall pluck (or "catch," it is the same word) them out of my hand" (John x. 12, 28).

We are God's dwelling, and that is a different thing to God's regenerating us merely. The fact of being regenerate does not reveal things to our soul; but God does reveal things to us by His Spirit which dwelleth in us (1 Cor. ii. 10-12).

The manifested beauty of spiritual life in an individual, or in the church, is another thing, and depends of course on the faithfulness of walk; but the maintenance of spiritual life is entirely on God's part, and never fails.

"As the valleys are they spread forth." This is the refreshing power of the gospel. "How *goodly*