

For us Christians this is no commonplace reliance on the great truth of natural religion, that God controls the universe, and, infinite in His condescension to small details as in His boundless grasp of the greatness which is illimitable, deals not only with worlds and empires, but with their inhabitants one by one. Rather it is the conviction that in Christ Jesus we Christians are brought so near to the Father of our spirits that what others acknowledge coldly of God's controlling power as a doctrine of philosophy, we can realize as a living fact, knowing and feeling, as well as acknowledging, that we are and ever have been in our Father's hands. If a man be a real disciple of the Lord Jesus Christ, it is wonderful how this thought grows in intensity within him; what calmness it gives him in all changes; how it reconciles him to be forgotten and thought nothing of if God deems that best for him; and how also it makes him look forward hopefully if a post of difficult and high responsibility, and many irksome duties, has not been grasped at by his own self-will, but is distinctly assigned to him by the providential arrangements of his Father's controlling power. Then he feels, He who has called me has been preparing me; He who has kept me hitherto will not leave me now, if I strive humbly and earnestly to be ever near Him in the Lord Jesus Christ. It is, as we have hinted, to awaken this feeling and to deepen it,