

cover inconsistencies in the walk of our brethren. We do want to rise up, and have our eyes open to see, as God sees, this beauty and glory of the Church. God is in possession of us.

And remember this was said in the very presence of Balak. It is blessed we should have the certainty of these things in the midst of Satan's power. What does David say? "Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies." The enemies can only look on and see how blest I am, while I feast on what God has provided. "Thou anointest my head with oil : my cup runneth over," not only have I got mercy and peace, but I have understood its fulness—an overrunning cup. He can both dwell upon the proved faithfulness of God, and count upon it for the future also, as he goes on to say, "Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life," and finishes with "I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever." "How goodly are thy tents O Jacob! and thy tabernacles O Israel!" We have the strength of God's love to think of for present comfort, and where there is a right view of the beauty and comeliness of the Church, and yet of her failure, there will be great humbleness and tenderness of spirit towards the Lord, and towards one another. The Lord grant we may not sit down content in wretched coldness of heart, with evil in ourselves or in our brethren. The waters of God are at the root of the plant, however miserable the pruning. How precious is this! May we rise in the sense of the beauty we have in God's mind, to delight ourselves in Him who is our comeliness, to glory in Him who is God's delight, and our joy and glory.

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Something to learn from God Himself. "I am nothing." "Christ is all." "He must increase, I must decrease."