

went about doing good, but seemingly in vain. Still none of God's counsels have failed ; but as to the outward result, the Lord said, "I have laboured in vain, I have spent my strength for nought." (Is. xlix. 5.) And so far as the outward scene went in which He laboured, there was no kind of restoration ; for the more love Christ manifested, it only brought out more fully man's hatred to Him. "For My love they are My adversaries."

The resurrection introduces an entirely new scene, so that Scripture says, "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature ; old things are passed away, behold all things are become new" (2 Cor. v. 17). Now it is a very difficult thing for men to submit their minds to this truth, because it plainly tells man that, in himself as man, he is totally and utterly ruined. It is quite true, and I fully admit, that naturally man has great and wonderful faculties, and faculties which, it may be, will be much more developed than they now are. But still, with all this, man morally is utterly ruined and lost. Paul opens out in this chapter what the character and power of resurrection are, the resurrection of the just being the subject of it, although that of the unjust is also glanced at. It is not merely God acting in sovereign power, which can take a dead thing out of the state of death ; but by virtue of association with the life of Christ we have participation in Christ's resurrection. It is not only that we are blessed, but blessed with