

myself, I cannot trust what I have been, nor even what I desire to be, to Thee, but I can trust fully what Thou art to me in the gift of Thy Son. Such confidence in God produces deep loathing of self, real uprightness of soul, as well as diligence of heart, and desire to do the will of God. There is nothing so humbling, and strengthening withal, as the heart's rest in God's grace towards us in Christ.

The man was not blamed for not bringing a new robe, no matter how splendid, of his own. On the contrary, what made his case so hopelessly evil was his indifference to the munificent provision of the king. Why should not his own robe do as well as the king's? He knew not, believed not, that nothing from earth suits His divine presence, only what is purchased by the precious blood of Jesus. He had no sense of the grace which invited him, nor of the holiness that befits the presence of God. The king accordingly says to him, "Friend, how camest thou in hither, not having a wedding garment? And he was speechless." He may have been ever so well attired, he may have liked the feast and the guests, but he thought nothing of the king nor his son, and had not a word to say when the solemn challenge came. He was in spirit, and before God, entirely outside the feast; else he would have felt the absolute need of an array in keeping with the king's joy and the son's bridal. And judgment cast him out of that scene for which he had no heart, where the unbelieving, if it be in the hopeless wretchedness of remorse and self-reproach, must honour the Son. It is not merely governmental