

mercy, but to multiply mercy ; yea, to surround them with mercy ; or, as it is beautifully expressed in another translation of the Psalms, "mercy embraceth him on every side." This is our truthful place. If we look back, it is "not by works of righteousness which we have done, *but according to His mercy* He saved us (Tit. iii. 5). And it is "according to His mercy" that He still deals with us ; there will be discipline and correction by the way, because it is for our profit ; but God's rule of dealing with us is according to that which is in Himself,—"*His mercy.*" And if we look forward, does the thought arise of glory, as connected with our faithfulness or service?—and the thought does arise sometimes to dispirit, and sometimes to set us on a wrong ground of service—how suitable the word, "looking for the *mercy* of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life" (Jude 21). We have earned no title to glory. Glory shall come to us in the shape of mercy. God will "make known the riches of His glory on the vessels of mercy, which He hath afore prepared unto glory" (Rom. ix. 23). When Israel came into possession of houses full of all good things which they filled not, and wells digged which they digged not, vineyards and olive trees which they planted not—then the danger was of their forgetting the Lord (Deut. vi. 10-12), and assuming that as their own right for which they were merely debtors to the grace of God.

This is too true a picture of our own hearts. We take as a right that for which we are debtors to mercy alone. We rejoice in the blessing which we have reached by trusting in the Lord ; and then we trust in the blessing and forget the Lord. We only and always stand in grace, we live by faith, we stand by faith, we are constant debtors to mercy ; and in glory we shall know ourselves