

and blessing of the Church in Eph. ii. and i., the more do we see that it is, *must* be of grace. The depth and height of it cuts every string of human claim or strength.

Take another view. Look at the *Person* in whom this grace comes—God's Son, His only begotten Son, in whom He was ever well pleased, one with the Father ; what do we read in that ? It is the deepest of all. 'Tis an unspeakable gift. He spared not His own Son, but delivered *Him* up for us all. "Angels desire to look into it."

"That it is grace alone carries on the work which itself began, we know to our joy. It is, indeed, God only that works in us, to will and to do of His own good pleasure : "Thou also hast wrought our works in us" (Isa. xxvi. 12). Further, we know that—

"Who *grace* has brought, will *glory* bring,
And we shall reign with Him."

He will *thus* crown His own work.

I say, then, it is well, often amidst the trials and corruptions of the Church, our own failures and trials, to look away from all to that grace, which stands forth bright and independent of all for us. It refreshes our souls, it animates us afresh, it inspires the freshest and the brightest confidence in God, and again girds us for our work. "Hearken unto me," says the Lord to *Israel's* remnant (Isaiah li.), "ye that follow righteousness : look unto the rock whence ye are hewn, and to the hole of the pit whence ye are digged. Look unto Abraham your father, and to Sarah that bare you : for I called him *alone*, and blessed him, and *increased* him." The result is full confidence. "For the Lord will comfort Zion : He will comfort all her waste places ; He will make her wilderness like