

able to the saints at all times. The special application may be more or less seized. The words of Christ have power at all times for the heart and conscience ; and this is the force of the exhortation at the end to every church ; "He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith to the churches."



UTTER RUIN THE GROUND OF COMPLETE BLESSING.

I believe that which greatly keeps us from the strength of our joy, is our ignorance of the utter ruin of man. Not merely should we be acquainted with the evil into which the ruin has brought us, but also with the ruin itself. The moment that this ruin came into the world, everything went wrong. Not only has man gone wrong, but all his activities have gone wrong also.

Now, Christ has provided for us a way wherein the activities of the *new man* have their exercise. This is our own proper and peculiar portion—to have the mind of Christ, and to be brought into fellowship with God. But for the enjoyment of this, it is essential that we should be introduced into a knowledge of the *complete apostasy* of our own natural will. The purpose of God for His children is, that they should be associated with Him in *His own joy*, and to this end we must know Him. Now the main sorrow of Christ's life, was man's ignorance of God. God was never under-