

disciples, self was their object. Thus they were totally inconsistent with what Christ had made them. Had they had Christ, not only as their life before God, but as the object of that life, there would have been, without a thought about it, the real greatness which properly belongs to the child of God.

True greatness at the present time is shewn by being nothing at all. Greatness can go down ; greatness, instead of seeking to be served, serves others : greatness now, in an evil world far from God, shews itself in the resources of grace known in Christ before God, and giving out of that fulness which it possesses in Christ. Everything in the world is founded on the exact opposite ; and the deeper runs the stream of the world, the greater is the desire to be something, and the desire to parade whatever we think we have. This is flesh in its littleness ; and flesh and the world always keep company together. Self likes the world : it holds hard what it has got, and seeks to make a bargain with the world to get more. The knowledge of Christ delivers from all this. But a Christian who does not know that he is a Christian, who does not know that he has got Christ and eternal life in Christ is entirely inconsistent, and all else must be out of course. In order to have practical power, I must not only have the thing, but know that I have it. Supposing a man possesses all the wealth of India and does not know that he has got it, it is practically useless to him.