

godly." And, indeed, as I said, God has taken occasion thus to *set forth* and shew forth His grace, and that it *is* grace. "God *commendeth* His love toward us, in that, while we were *yet* sinners, Christ died for us."

Nor is it this only ; but look at the whole calling of the Church, look at what God did for the Church at once, in the resurrection and exaltation of Christ—He took it from the horrible pit, out of which it was hewed (Eph. ii. 1-3), and at once, at one bound, taking us just as He found us, but putting away our sins by the blood of Christ, "even *when*, or *though*, we were dead in sins, He quickened us together with Christ (by *grace* ye are saved), and raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus." And, indeed, the next verse tells us this is to be the thing specially displayed and illustrated hereby hereafter, "That in the ages to come He might shew forth the exceeding riches of His grace, in His kindness towards us in Christ Jesus." And how it loves in that passage to dwell on this one thought of grace ; cutting away everything which for a moment could intercept the view. "For by *grace* *are* ye saved through faith," and that very faith (the hand by which we receive it) not of yourselves : *it* is the *gift* of God. Not surely of works, for we are His workmanship, and how can the workmanship boast itself against the *Workman*, as though it were anything in itself ?

Then, again, look at the place whereinto we are brought by it. It is not merely a number of *blessings*, as we have it in our translation (Eph. i. 3), but one unbroken, unclouded *charter* of blessing—"all spiritual *blessing*, in heavenly places in Christ Jesus."

To return. The more we study the salvation