

which has sent its roots out far and near, struck them down deep into the soil, and taken a firm grasp of the earth, so that with its numerous roots and rootlets it obtains an abundant supply of nourishment to make the tree both strong and vigorous. It thus secures nourishment, strength, security, growth and fruitfulness. The storm may rage, but it has no power to uproot the tree. It is safe because it is firmly rooted.

The idea of being grounded in the truth is slightly different, but equally precious. It points to a sure foundation upon which one may build with safety. The wise masterbuilder digs deep, and lays a sure foundation which cannot be moved. So the believer who is grounded in Christ is resting upon a sure foundation, "Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to-day, and forever,"—the life, the light, the joy of believing souls.

The phrase rooted and grounded in the truth, in Christ, has a wealth of meaning which the human mind cannot fully comprehend. It contains thoughts which are infinite, grand, eternal—thoughts, which eternity alone can reveal. "For in him (i. e. Christ) dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily."

To be rooted and grounded in the truth is to be complete in Christ, to rest upon the sure foundation of Christ; grounded in the truth the believer will be built up in Christ, a spiritual temple unto the praise and glory of God. It places the believer in a position where he can grasp the promises of God, and by faith receive the blessings which are so fully and freely offered. The richest gifts of heavenly grace are placed within his reach.

Man cannot fulfil the end for which he was created without knowing God, and being rooted and grounded in the truth. The nature of the human soul, its capacity for growth in wisdom, knowledge and spiritual understanding, as well as its grand destiny point to the same fact. The believer professes to have seen his condition by nature, felt his need, sought for mercy and obtained pardon. He recognizes his obligations to God and pledges himself to fulfil them.

To be rooted and grounded in the truth is important :

1. Because it is essential to the believer's happiness. The normal state of the human soul is one of uninterrupted communion with God. Hence the believer, in order to fulfil his mission, must maintain the closest union and communion with God. Through a knowledge of God and his will, and by obedience to his require-