

THE LOVELINESS OF CHRIST

Extracts from the Letters
of Samuel Rutherford

Selected by
Ellen S. Lister



THE BANNER OF TRUTH TRUST

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FOREWORD

A hundred years ago, H. C. G. Moule, the Anglican Bishop of Durham, said in his simple but elegant commendation of *The Loveliness of Christ* that it was ‘a small casket stored with many jewels’, and expressed the hope that it would have a wide circulation. These pages contain short extracts from the letters of the great seventeenth-century Scottish Christian, Samuel Rutherford. I count it a personal privilege, and the fulfilment of a long-held aspiration,

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PREFATORY NOTE

THIS BOOK, a small casket stored with many jewels, will have, I hope a wide circulation. Yet more I hope that it will go deep as well as far, and imprint, by the grace of God, upon all its readers' souls something of that supreme content and delight in the Lord Jesus which were the light of life to Samuel Rutherford. Nothing is more needed in our day in the Christian church than a larger sight by faith of 'the King in

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his beauty'. We hear much of many things,
but little of HIM.

To read Rutherford, in sympathy and with
prayer, is a powerful and beautiful help to-
wards that 'beatific vision' of our Redeemer
which may be ours even here below.

HANDLEY C. G. MOULE¹

1909

¹ Handley Moule (1841-1920) was Bishop of
Durham from 1901 till his death.

INTRODUCTION

SAMUEL RUTHERFORD, the author of the famous *Letters*, was born at the village of Nisbet in Roxburghshire in 1600, seven years after the birth of George Herbert, and eight years before that of John Milton, and was contemporary with Shakespeare. He was educated at Jedburgh, and entered Edinburgh University in 1617. There he took his degree of Master of Arts in 1621, and obtained the appointment of Professor of Humanity soon after. Little is known of

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THE LOVELINESS OF CHRIST

THE GREAT MASTER GARDENER, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, in a wonderful providence, with his own hand, planted me here, where by his grace, in this part of his vineyard, I grow; and here I will abide till the great Master of the vineyard think fit to transplant me.

If your Lord call you to suffering, be not dismayed; there shall be a new allowance of

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the King for you when ye come to it. One of the softest pillows Christ hath is laid under his witnesses' head, though often they must set down their bare feet among thorns.

God hath called you to Christ's side, and the wind is now in Christ's face in this land; and seeing ye are with him, ye cannot expect the lee-side or the sunny side of the brae.

He delighteth to take up fallen bairns and to mend broken brows: binding up of wounds is his office.

Wants are my best riches, for I have these supplied by Christ.

I hope to over-hope and over-believe my troubles.

I think the sense of our wants, when withal we have a restlessness and a sort of spiritual impatience under them, and can make a din, because we want him whom our soul loveth, is that which maketh an open door for Christ: and when we think we are going backward, because we feel deadness, we are going forward; for the more sense the more life, and no sense argueth no life.

There is no sweeter fellowship with Christ than to bring our wounds and our sores to him.