

# Xlii. to the rev. John Ferguson of Ochiltree

by Samuel Rutherford

---

*Samuel Rutherford's sermon highlights the importance of mutual encouragement among believers and the desire for Christ's glory in the face of personal trials and communal challenges in Scotland.*

**Scripture:** Psalm 23:1, Romans 8:28, Philippians 1:20, 1 Peter 4:19, 1 Peter 5:2

**Topics:** "Sovereignty Of God", "Christian Perseverance"

---

## Description

Samuel Rutherford expresses his longing to serve the Lord and spread His kingdom, even in the midst of challenges and imprisonment. He acknowledges that his ultimate desire is for God to be glorified and for Christ's kingdom to be expanded through his life, regardless of his circumstances. Rutherford places his trust in Christ's sovereignty, believing that God will work all things for His glory. He also seeks support in being restored to his flock, showing his dedication to caring for his community despite his own struggles.

---

## Transcript

MY VERY DEAR BROTHER, -- I would have looked for larger and more particular letters from you, for my comfort in this; for your words before have strengthened me. I pray you to mend this; and be thankful and painful, while ye have a piece or corner of the Lord's vineyard to dress. Oh, would to God that I could have leave to follow you, to break the clods! But I wish I could command my soul to be silent, and to wait upon the Lord. I am sure that while Christ lives, I am well enough friend-stead. I hope that He will extend His kindness and power for me; but God be thanked it is not worse with me than a cross for Christ and His truth. I know that He might have pitched upon many more choice and worthy witnesses, if He had pleased; but I seek no more (be what timber I will, suppose I were made of a piece of hell) than that my Lord, in

His infinite art, hew glory to His name, and enlargement to Christ's kingdom, out of me. Oh that I could attain to this, to desire that my part of Christ might be laid in pledge for the heightening of Christ's throne in Britain! Let my Lord redeem the pledge, or, if He please, let it sink and drown unredeemed. But what can I add to Him? Or what way can a smothered and borne-down prisoner set out Christ in open market, as a lovely and desirable Lord to many souls? I know that He seeth to His own glory better than my ebb thoughts can dream of; and that the wheels and paces of this poor distempered kirk are in His hands; and that things shall roll as Christ will have them: -- only, Lord, tryst the matter so, as Christ may be made a householder and lord again in Scotland, and wet faces for His departure may be dried at His sweet and much-desired welcome-home!

I desire you to contribute your help to see if I cannot be restored to my wasted and lost flock.

Grace be (as it is) your portion.

ABERDEEN, 1637

---

Source: <https://sermonindex.net/speakers/samuel-rutherford/xlii-to-the-revjohn-ferguson-of-ochiltree/>

# *Grow in Your Walk with Christ*

---

Listen and read messages that will stir your heart for Christ and point you to deeper repentance and devotion.

- 50,000+ Sermons from speakers past and present
- 3,900+ Classic Christian Books freely readable online
- 1,200+ Bible Translations and Commentaries
- Over 450k forum posts — Join our vibrant online Christian forum

**[www.sermonindex.net](http://www.sermonindex.net)**