

# Xlix. to Mrs Stuart, Wife of the Provost of Aye

by Samuel Rutherford

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*Samuel Rutherford reflects on his spiritual inadequacies while expressing hope for revival and the return of Christ in Scotland.*

**Scripture:** Psalm 51:17, Romans 8:38, Ephesians 4:22, Ephesians 6:18, 1 John 1:9, Revelation 6:9

**Topics:** "True Repentance", "Christian Revival"

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## Description

Samuel Rutherford expresses humility and a deep sense of unworthiness, acknowledging his shortcomings and the insufficiency of his own efforts compared to the grace of Christ. He longs for a genuine, transformative experience of God's love beyond mere words or appearances. Rutherford emphasizes the need for true repentance, seeking forgiveness for both visible and hidden sins, and the necessity of a Savior to cleanse and purify the heart. He calls for a heartfelt mourning over the state of the Church and the persecution of believers, urging believers to intercede for the restoration and revival of Christ's work. Rutherford concludes with a reminder of the unbreakable bond between believers and Christ, encouraging steadfastness in faith and prayer for one another.

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## Transcript

MISTRESS, -- Grace, mercy, and peace be to you. -- I am sorry that ye take it so hardly that I have not written to you.

I am judged to be that which I am not. I fear that if I were put into the fire, I should melt away, and fall down in shreds of painted nature; for truly I have little stuff at home that is worth the eye of God's servants. If there 'be anything of Christ's in me (as I dare not deny some of His work), it is but a spunk of borrowed fire, that can scarce warm myself, and has little heat for standers-by. I would fain have that which ye and others believe I have; but ye are only witnesses to my outer side, and to some words on paper. Oh that He would give me

more than paper-grace or tongue-grace! But if I have any love to Him, Christ has both love to me, and wit to guide His love. And I see that the best thing I have has as much dross beside it as might curse me and it both; and, if it were for no more, we have need of a Savior to pardon the very faults, and diseases, and weakness of the new man, and to take away (to say so) our godly sins, or the sins of our sanctification, and the dross and scum of spiritual love.

I would have you and myself helping Christ mystical to weep for His wife. And oh that we could mourn for Christ buried in Scotland, and for His two slain witnesses, killed because they prophesied! If we could so importune and solicit God, our buried Lord and His two buried witnesses should rise again. Earth and clay and stone will not bear down Christ and the Gospel in Scotland. I know not if I shall see the second temple and the glory of it; but the Lord has deceived me if it be not to be reared up again. I would wish to give Christ His welcome Home again. My blessing, my joy, my glory and love be on the Home-comer.

I know that your heart and Christ are married together; it were not good to make a divorce. Rue not of that meeting and marriage with such a Husband. Pray for me, His prisoner. Grace, grace be with you.

ABERDEEN, 1637

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