

An. no  
1555.  
February.  
The constant  
minde of a chris-  
tian souldiour.  
Ephes. 1.  
Rom. 8.  
Galat. 4.

Your constant continuance in the cheerefull confession of  
Gods euertlasting veritie. For euē as we haue receyued  
the word of truth, euen the Gospell of our saluation, wher-  
in we beleeuē, are sealed with the holy spirite of promise,  
which is the earnest of our inheritance (the which spirite  
testifieth our spirit, that we are the children of God; and  
therefore God hath sente the spirite of his Sonne into our  
harts, crying, Abba, Father) so after such portion as God  
measurēth vnto vs, we with the whole Church of Christ,  
and with you reuerend fathers, receiuing the same spirite  
of faith, accordyng as it is writtē: I beleueed, and therefore I  
haue spoken. We also beleue, and therefore speake. For the  
which we in this dangerous bondage and other afflictions,  
hauing euen such a fight as we haue scene in you and  
haue heard of you, are in no wise afraid of our aduersaries.

2. Cor. 4.  
Psal. 116.

Phil. 1.

1. Cor. 4.

2. Cor. 4.

And forasmuch as we haue such an office, euen as God  
hath had mercy on vs, we go not out of kind, but euē with  
you, after our little power, we labour to maintain the faith  
of the Gospell, knowing most certainly that though we  
haue this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of thys  
power might be Gods and not ours: yet shall we not be dash-  
ed in pieces: For the Lord will put his hand vnder vs.  
[when] we are troubled on euery side, yet are we not without  
shift: [when] we are in pouerty, we are not vtterly without some  
thing: [when] we suffer persecution, we are not forsaken therein:  
[when] we are cast downe, yet we shall not perish: but to com-  
municate with our sweete Saviour Christ in bearing the  
crosse, it is appointed vnto vs, that euen with him also we  
shall be glorified. For it is a true saying: If we be dead with  
him, we shall also liue with him: If we be patient, we shall also  
raigne with him: If we deny him, he shall also deny vs. Where-  
fore be we of good cheere, alwayes bearing about in our body  
the dying of the Lord Iesus, that the life of Iesus might appear  
also in our body: For we know that he which raised vp the Lorde  
Iesus, shall raise vp vs also by the meanes of Iesus, and shall ioyn  
vs to himselfe together with you. Wherefore we are not weered:  
but though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is re-  
newed day by day. For our tribulation, which is momentane and  
light, preparēth an exceeding and eternall weight of glory vnto  
vs; while we looke not on the things which are scene, but on  
the things which are not scene. For the things which are scene,  
are temporall; but the things which are not scene, are eternall.

2. Tim. 2.

3. Cor. 4.

Esay. 12.

Psal. 48.

We testifie vnto you, Reuerend fathers, that we drave  
these waters with ioy out of the welles of the sauour. And  
I trust we shall continually with you blisse the Lord, & giue  
thanks to the Lord out of the welles of Israel: we trust to  
bee merry together at that greate Supper of the Lambe,  
whose spouise we are by faith, and there to sing that song of  
euertlasting Haleluyah, Amen. Yea come Lorde Iesu. The  
grace of our Lord Iesu Christ be with you, Amen.

Another letter writtē to his wife, wherein is to bee  
scene how this worthy warrior prepared himselfe to the  
appointed fight, and to keepe hys standyng in Christs  
Camp.

Laurence Saunders to his wyfe.

Grace and comfort in Christ Iesu our onely comfort, in  
all extreme afflictions, Amen.

Fayne woude this flesh make strange of that which the  
spirit doth embrace. Oh Lorde how loth is this loitering  
singdard to passe forth in Gods path? It fantasteth for-  
ward much feare of fraybugs: and were it not for the force  
of faith which pulleth it forward by the reyne of Gods  
most sweete promise, and of hope which picketh on be-  
hind, great aduenture there were of fainting by the way.  
But blessed, and euertlastingly blessed be that heauenly fa-  
ther of ours, who in his Christ, our sufficient Saviour,  
hath vouchēd safe to shine in our harts, that he geueth vs  
the light of the knowledge of the glory of God, in the face  
of Iesu Christ: and hauing this treasure in our earthen  
vessels, that the excellency of the power might be Gods,  
and not ours, we are [accordyng to his good will] troubled  
on euery side, yet are we not without shift: we are in pouerty,  
but yet not without that is sufficient: we suffer persecution, but  
are not forsaken therein: we are cast downe, neuertheles we pe-  
rish not: we beare in the body the dying of the Lorde Iesus,  
that the life of Iesus might also appear in our body. Wherefore by  
the grace of our Christ we shall not be weered, neyther be  
dismayed by this our probation throught the fire of affliction,  
as though some strange thing had hapned vnto vs:  
but by his power we shall reioyce, in as much as we are  
partakers of Christs passion, that when he doth appere,  
we may be merry and glad, knowing that our tribulation  
which is momentane and light, preparēth an exceeding and an  
eternall weyght of glory vnto vs, while wee looke not on the  
things which are scene, but on the things which are not scene.  
They that sowe in teares, shall reape in ioye. For he that goeth on  
his way weeping and scattering his good seede, shall doubles

M. Saunders  
letter to his  
wyfe.

2. Cor. 4.

2. Cor. 4.

2. Cor. 4.

Psal. 126.

come agayne wyth ioy, and bring his whole sheaves wyth him.  
Then, then shall the Lorde wipe away all teares from  
our eyes. Then, then shall he be brought to passe that saying  
which is writtē: Death is swallowed vp in victory. Death,  
where is thy sting? Hell, where is thy victory? Yea, thanks be  
to God which hath geuen vs the victory thorough our Lord Ie-  
sus Christ, Amen.

1. Cor. 15.

In the meane season it remaineth for vs to followe S.  
Peters bidding: Let them (sayth he) that are troubled accord-  
ing to the will of God, commit their soules to him with well  
doing, as a faithfull Creator and Maker. He is our maker: we  
are his handy worke and creatures, whome now when he  
hath made, he doth not leaue and forsake as the shipwight  
doth the shyp, leauing it at all aduentures to be tossed in  
the tempest, but he comforteth vs his creatures, and in  
him we liue, moue, and haue our being: Ye not onely that,  
but now that he hath in his deare Christ repayed vs, be-  
ing before vtterly decayed, and redeemed vs, purging vs  
vnto himselfe as a peculiar people by the blood of hys  
Sonne he hath put on a most tender good will and fatherly  
affection toward vs, neuer to forget vs: vnto whome  
by such promises he hath plighted such faith, that though it  
were possible that the mother could forget her infant, and  
not be tender-hearted to the childe of her wombe, yet may  
not it be that his faithfull beleeuers should be forgotten of  
him. He biddeth vs to cast our care on him, and sayth, that  
assuredly he careth for vs. And what though for a season he  
doth suffer vs to be tympted in the troublous tempests  
of temptation, and seemeth as in much anger to haue ge-  
uen vs ouer, and forgotten vs? let not vs for all that leaue  
off to put our trust in him, but let vs with godly Job con-  
clude in our selues and say: Euen though he kill mee, yet will I  
put my trust in him. Let vs with the blessed Abraham in  
hope, euen contrary to hope by beliefe, leaue vnto that our  
loving Lord, who though for our probation, he suffereth  
vs to be afflicted, yet will he not bee alwayes chiding, neyther  
keepeth he his anger for euer: for he knoweth whereof wee be  
made: he remembreth that we are but dust. Wherefore, looke  
how high the heauen is in comparison of the earth, so great is his  
mercy towards them which feare him. Looke how wide the East  
is from the West, so farre hath he fet our sinnes from vs. Yea,  
like as a father pitieth his owne children, euen so is the Lorde  
mercifull vnto them that feare him. Oh what great cause of  
reioycing haue we in our most gracious God? we can not  
but burst forth into the prayling of suche a bountifull be-  
nefactor, and say with the same Psalmist: Praise the Lord  
O my soule, and all that is within me prayse his holy name. Praise  
the Lord O my soule, and forget not all his benefites.

1. Pet. 4.

Actes. 17.

Gods prom-  
ises firme  
and sure.  
Esay. 49.

1. Pet. 5.

Iob. 3.  
Trust vpon  
Gods prom-  
ise.

Psal. 103.

Deare wife, riches haue I none to leaue behynde mee,  
wherewith to endow you after the worldly manner. But  
that treasure of tasting how sweete Christ is vnto hungry  
consciences (whereof I thanke my Christ, I do feele part,  
and would feele more) that I bequeath vnto you, and to  
the rest of my beloued in Christ, to retaine the same in scale  
of hart alwayes. Pray, pray, I am merry, and I trust I  
shall be merry, mange the teeth of all the devils in hell. I  
vtterly refuse my selfe, and resigne my selfe vnto my Christ,  
in whome I knowe I shall be strong as he seeth neede-  
full. Pray, pray, pray.

Saunders  
godly be-  
quest to his  
wyfe.

Experiēce  
of the com-  
fortes of  
Christ in  
prison.

Laurence Saunders.

As the sayde Mayster Saunders was in prison, straye  
charge was geuen to the keeper, that no person shoulde  
speake with him. His wife per came to the prison gate with  
her yong childe in her armes, to visit her husband. The  
keeper, though for his charge, hee durst not suffer her to  
come into the prison; yet did he take the little babe out of  
her armes, and brought him vnto his father. Laurence  
Saunders seeing him, reioyced greatly, saying, that he re-  
ioyced more to haue such a boy, than he should if two thou-  
sand pounde were geuen him. And vnto the Standers by,  
which praysed the goodlines of the childe, he sayde: what  
man fearyng God woude not lose this life present, rather  
than by prolonging it heere, he should aduidge this boy to  
be a Bastard, his wife a whoore, and himselfe a whoore-  
monger? Yea, if there were no other cause, for which a man  
of my estate shoulde lose his life, yet who woude not geue  
it, to aduouch this childe to be legitimate, and his marriage  
to be lawfull and holy?

M. Saunders  
wyfe not  
suffered to  
speake with  
him in pris-  
on.

I do (good Reader) recite thys saying, not onely to let  
thee see what he thought of Devils marriage: but chiefly to  
let all married couples and parents learne to beare in their  
bosome true affections: naturall, but yet seasoned with the  
true salt of the spirit, vnspayed and thoroughly mortified.  
Do the naturall workes and offices of married couples &  
parents, so lōg as with their doing they may keepe Christ  
with a free confessing faith, in a conscience vnioyled: other-  
wise, both they and their owne liues are so to be forsaken,  
as