

# Xxxvii. to Earlston, the Younger

by Samuel Rutherford

---

*Samuel Rutherford warns of the dangers of youth while emphasizing Christ's mercy and the importance of humility in the Christian journey.*

**Scripture:** Psalm 25:7, Romans 8:1, Philippians 3:8, 1 Timothy 1:15, Hebrews 4:16

**Topics:** "Youth Ministry", "Repentance"

---

## Description

Samuel Rutherford preaches about the struggles of youth and the dangers of unrepentant sin, emphasizing the need to be wary of the temptations that come with youth and the importance of seeking forgiveness and redemption. He encourages believers to come to Christ with their fears, doubts, and sins, assuring them that Jesus will never reject those who come to Him in sincerity. Rutherford humbly acknowledges his own shortcomings and sins, expressing a deep sense of unworthiness and a longing for true transformation and salvation.

---

## Transcript

See also Letter LVI.

MUCH HONORED AND WELL BELOVED IN THE LORD, GraCe, mercy, and peace be to you. Your letters give a dash to my laziness in writing.

I must first tell you, that there is not such a glassy, icy, and slippery piece of way betwixt you and heaven, as Youth; and I have experience to say with me here, and to seal what I assert. The old ashes of the sins of my youth are new fire of sorrow to me. I have seen the devil, as it were, dead and buried, and yet rise again, and be a worse devil than ever he was: therefore, my brother, beware of a green young devil, that has never been buried. Yet I must tell you, that the whole saints now triumphant in heaven, and standing before the throne,

are nothing but a pack of redeemed sinners.

I shall be loath to put you off your fears, and your sense of deadness: I wish it were more. There be some wounds of that nature, that their bleeding should not be soon stopped. Ye must take a house beside the Physician. It will be a miracle if ye be the first sick man whom He put away uncured, and worse than He found you. 'Him that cometh unto Me I will in no wise cast out' (John 6.37). Take ye that. It cannot be presumption to take that as your own, when you find that your wounds stound you. He that can tell his tale and send such a letter to heaven as he has sent to Aberdeen, it is very like he will come speed with Christ. It bodeth God's mercy to complain heartily for sin.

Now for myself; alas! I am not the man I go for in this nation: men have not just weights to weigh me in. Oh, but I am a silly, feckless body, and overgrown with weeds; corruption is rank and fat in me. Oh, if I were answerable to this holy cause, and to that honorable Prince's love for whom I now suffer! If Christ should refer the matter to me (in His presence I speak it), I might think shame to vote my own salvation. I think Christ might say, 'Thinkest thou not shame to claim heaven, who does so little for it?' I am very often so, that I know not whether I sink or swim in the water.

Grace be with you,

ABERDEEN, June 16, 1637

---

Source: <https://sermonindex.net/speakers/samuel-rutherford/xxxvii-to-earlston-the-younger/>

# *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)**