

## The Letters of Samuel Rutherford

Samuel Rutherford (1600–61) was a minister. He lived in Anwoth in Scotland. He was a good, kind minister. He preached the truth to his people. Crowds of people came to hear him. They came from from Anwoth. They came from other places nearby too. God used Samuel Rutherford's words. Many of the people turned to Christ. They were sorry for their sins. They trusted in Jesus to save them. Now there were many Christians in Anwoth. Samuel Rutherford's church building is a ruin now. You can see it in the picture.



Samuel Rutherford lived in troubled times. The King was Charles I. He believed God had made him king. That was right. He believed that meant he could do anything he liked. That was wrong. Charles wanted the church in Scotland to be like the Church of England. People in Scotland did not like that idea. Samuel Rutherford did not like that idea either.

Charles did not like parliament. "They must not tell me what to do," he thought. "I am king. I do not have to keep the law like everyone else. I *make* the law. I do not have to *keep* it." Charles did not like Samuel Rutherford. He put him in prison. "Rutherford's ideas are dangerous," thought Charles. "He thinks I must keep the law. He cannot preach now. He is in prison. No one will hear his ideas now."

The prison was a long way away from Anwoth. It was on the other side of Scotland. Samuel Rutherford's friends were all far away from him now. Was he lonely? Yes, he was. But he remembered something. He remembered that not every friend was far away. The Lord Jesus was still near him. Could Samuel Rutherford see him? No. Could he speak to him? Yes! He could pray. Could the Lord Jesus speak to Samuel Rutherford? Yes! Samuel Rutherford could read the Bible. The Lord Jesus speaks to us through the Bible.



Samuel Rutherford was a preacher. Preachers are sent by God. He sends them to tell people how to be saved from sin. God had sent Samuel Rutherford. But now he could not do this work any more. He was in prison. How sad he was because he could not preach! But God gave him another job to do. He could do that job in prison.

Rutherford wrote letters. He wrote to important people. He wrote to poor people. He wrote to lords and ladies. He wrote to the people of Anwoth. His letters were full of good advice. They were full of praise to God. "How good

God is!" said Samuel Rutherford in his letters. "What wonderful things he has done for us. We are poor sinners but he is so kind to us." The letters were so good to read. Soon other people wanted to read them. They were printed in a book. Thousands of people could read them. Today people still read Samuel Rutherford's beautiful letters. The letters help preachers. The letters help all sorts of Christians all over the world. Charles I and his friends wanted to keep Samuel Rutherford quiet. Instead they had made him write letters. His letters were read by so many people! They reached far, far more people than he could ever have preached to in Anwoth!