Ps 76:10 Surely the wrath of man shall praise thee: the remainder of wrath shalt thou restrain.

Ex 9:16 And in very deed for this cause have I raised thee up, for to shew in thee my power; and that my name may be declared throughout all the earth

Ro 9:17 For the scripture saith unto Pharaoh, Even for this same purpose have I raised thee up, that I might shew my power in thee, and that my name might be declared throughout all the earth.

Persecutions tend

* to correct the failings of good men
* to exercise and illustrate their several graces and virtues.

By these, good men are usually made much better and more approved, while they tend

* to exercise our patience,
* to quicken our devotion,
* to evidence out zeal and Christian fortitude
* to show to the whole world what love we bear to the truth
* how much we are willing to undergo for the honour of God.

Till they have suffered something for it, truth is too apt to grow cheap and be less prized many times, even by those that are good men in the main; whereas we are apt on the contrary, never to value it at a higher rate, or to be more zealous for it, or to make better use of it, than when it is opposed and persecuted.

There are finally, other counsels also, as well as other wrath and pride, besides human, which God confounds. There is a wisdom that descendeth not from above (no, nor grows on earth) but is devilish, Jas 3:15. And both wrath, pride, and wisdom, of devils as well as men, shall God restrain, when he pleases not to turn them to his praise.

1. Evil permitted for good:
2. Wrath, Restrained for good: