

POINTS ON PREACHING.

"Preach the Word."

Get the Word into your life, if you would transmit it in a living message to your hearers.

Preaching from head to head may be entertaining, but preaching from heart to heart is more liable to be edifying.

After a sermon is delivered it is just begun. The real important part is to put the truths of the message into practical use in daily life.

The most effective preaching is done by those who practice the most devoted and godly living. The message of a consistent life adds power to the message from the pulpit.

Solomon says, "The mouth of fools poureth out foolishness." According to this standard all clowns are fools; and the biggest fool among them all is the one who breaks into the pulpit.

The preacher who feels commissioned to serve as the mouthpiece of every popular movement that comes along has missed his calling. There is a great gulf between that man and the other preacher who said, "I determined to know nothing among you save Jesus Christ and Him crucified."

Many a man who spent part of his life worrying because he couldn't preach any better might have put the wasted energy to better use had he spent it in Scripture reading, prayer and study of the conditions and needs of his people that he might be of greatest service to them in giving them what they most needed.

Two things needed in every sermon are seriousness and good will—the first for conviction, the second for sunshine. Both must exist in the heart if they are to be an effective part of the message. The most serious message that can be delivered is the message of salvation. And this seriousness is all the more effective when it is accompanied by the heavenly sunshine that permeates the entire gospel of Christ.

We feel at home where we live. There is an air of freedom about the home that is found nowhere else. The reason is that we live there. The more we live in the gospel the more at home we feel when we are engaged in the work of the gospel. Other things being equal, the more time we spend reading the Bible, meditating upon its precious truths, communing with God in prayer, studying the needs and conditions of our people, doing actual work in the service of the Master, the more we feel at home in the pulpit.

"What shall I say what shall I talk about, that I may occupy all the time one is expected to use in preaching an ordinary sermon?" asks the young preacher when first it dawns upon him what his life work is to be. Dismiss all considerations with reference to time, except that time is too precious to be wasted in empty talk. God never called a messenger but that He also gave him a message. Think only of three

things: (1) the Giver of the message; (2) the message itself; (3) the people to whom the message is to be delivered. You yourself are but a voice in the service of God. May the message plain—and with this point kept in view the less time you occupy in delivering the message, the better.—Gospel Herald.

WOE IS UNTO ME.

"Necessity is laid upon me, yea, woe is unto me if I preach not the gospel." Paul. And Jesus said unto him, "No man having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God."

The question that most forcibly presents itself to us is: Why do men who declare themselves called to preach the gospel, and are ordained into the gospel ministry so easily turned from it to worldly pursuits? Did they find the pathway too difficult? Or did they get their mind turned upon men as the source of their financial support and because that was inadequate that they considered it a sufficient excuse for forsaking the work that the Almighty God to whom the gold and silver belongs, had called them? "Who said I will never forsake you." Men should stop and consider first before entering the ministry. Second, before forsaking it, think it out; decide who hath called us, for whom are we labouring? The real object of our labour and how much our excuses will weigh at the Judgment when men's souls are required of them.

Be honest with ourselves. Did we not have opportunities to preach? Of course there were humiliations in our pathway, there were numerous hardships to be endured, but we have the precious promise: "He that endureth to the end shall be saved."

There is much to be endured by the true gospel ministry; there are many temptations to turn from, a pathway that only a true follower of the lowly Nazarene will walk in, which is "the way of holiness." We must follow close or we will lose sight of our guide.—Sel.

We believe that if all our people conscientiously tithed their income there would be abundant money to give the pastors a good support, and plenty left to build churches, endow our schools, send missionaries to the foreign field and for every other interest of the cause of God. What a disastrous thing it is to withhold from the Lord that which belongs to Him and which has been entrusted to us as His stewards. Spiritual blight invariably ensues when this is done.—Free Methodist.

Did not Paul labor with his hands to support himself? He certainly did under several circumstances because of the necessity of the case, and it is no reflection upon any preacher who does likewise. But the danger is that the minister, in many cases, decides that a case is a necessity when it really is not, but is simply a testing time to faith, and at the very time when the love and special providence of God are about to be manifested in his behalf he takes himself out of God's hands by not standing the test.—Selected.

BELIEVE WHAT YOU PREACH AND TEACH.

Positive preaching and teaching in Bible schools is of vital importance. No speaker, be he preacher or Sunday school teacher, should fail to realize that his hearers will be impressed by the way he presents the truth. It requires transparent presentation of Bible truth delivered in white heat earnestness to rivet the conviction that whatever the hearers may think of the message that is being delivered, the speaker believes it with all his heart. A certain wise man was approached by a less experienced man. He presented his doubts to him on a certain subject. The reply of the sage was as follows: "My dear sir, you come to me with your doubts, I want to assure you that I have enough doubts of my own."

A message delivered or a lesson taught in Sabbath school in a haphazard way leaves an undesirable impression on the mind and heart of the hearers. Every sermon that is preached should be delivered in the most positive terms and in white heat earnestness. The same holds true with teaching in the class room. Down-right earnestness is in itself a convincing argument of the reality of the truth uttered. We append what Joseph Hume said:

"Joseph Hume, the sceptical philosopher, was once twitted for his inconsistency in going to hear Dr. John Brown, the celebrated Scotch preacher, when he made reply:

"I don't believe all he says, but he does; and once a week at least, I like to hear a man who believes what he says. Why, whatever I think, that man preaches as though he felt the Lord Jesus Christ were at his elbow."

Slip shod preaching and Bible teaching is always out of order. It fails to meet the purpose of its mission among men. Positive preaching, like positive theology, is the great need of today in the midst of so much vague and indefinite preaching. Do not forget Mr. Preacher and Teacher, that your hearers form an opinion of the truth you seek to convey by the manner and the spirit in which you make it known to them. It is indeed a solemn duty, and a holy task for any person to stand between the living and the dead declaring the message of salvation. It is vast enough, and solemn and responsible enough, to make an angel tremble. Every public speaker should make full proof of his ministry.—Ev. Messenger.

A ONE MINUTE SERMON.

God—The greatest lover.
So Loved—the greatest degree.
The World—The greatest company.
That He Gave—The greatest act.
His Only Begotten Son—The greatest gift.
That Whosoever—The greatest opportunity.
Believeth—The greatest simplicity.
In Him—The greatest attraction.
Should Not Perish—The greatest promise.
But—The greatest difference.
Haye—The greatest certainty.
Everlasting Life—The greatest possession.
—E. HODGSON.