

THE WORK OF AN EVANGELIST.

Rev. J. H. Smith.

The need of the hour is evangelistic preaching.

Critical preaching—higher or lower—is never evangelistic.

The first place the "spoil" of modern philosophy shows itself upon the preacher, who has been crippled by his schooling, is in his evangelistic function, force, and fruit.

A necessary qualification for evangelistic preaching is passion and purpose to precipitate results of what we have preached at once, then and there.

Deferred expectancy in the preacher defers action in the hearer and deters the Holy Spirit from immediate application of the truth.

Evangelism is not confined to the first principles of the gospel, or the first stage of salvation.

An evangelist cannot be either a daily newspaper, or an encyclopedia; neither can an evangelistic meeting be a public library. "One thing I do" and "I determine not to know anything among you save Jesus Christ and him crucified."

The office of the Evangelist is not as important as the work of an evangelist. And this work is incumbent upon anyone in any kind of office in the ministry—whether pastor or school teacher or class leader, etc. And there is a spiritual gift of evangelism for personal as well as public service. It is time for us to give a little less attention to the classification of ministries, whether pastor or missionaries, whether home or foreign and devote ourselves to evangelism, without which foreign missions are a fraud and a failure, and regular pastorates become seats of "platform performances" and financial "drives" instead of soul saving, Spirit honoring ministries.

We want a new race of preachers. The Seminary brand does not fill the bill. They have proven incompetent to protect the old ship Zion against Germany's submarines. We must let them flow down the stream with the wreckage. The same Holy Spirit which raised up an army of lay preachers in Wesley's time, is not going to show any more respect to a defunct and defunct ecclesiasticism than He did then.

Let our lads and lassies who are called to God's special work content themselves without high degrees, and with a modest working education and library, depend upon the Holy Ghost to make them fishers of men. Up-to-date reels and rods with silver bands and trappings do not catch as many fish as country Johnny's hickory rod and simple tactics. But Evangelism is not men ranting. Let the preacher, boy or girl, keep filled with the Spirit, burn with the passion for souls, practising some at the work daily, laying in such stores of the Bible on his own account, and acquiring as much sound knowledge as he can without going to school where the atmosphere is unfriendly to spirituality, and with the aid of teachers and surroundings that will further this passion and facilitate this practice. "Study to show thyself approved unto God," a workman not ashamed, rightly dividing the word of

truth."

Doing despite to the Spirit of grace often begins by despising some of Christ's little ones who witness to the sanctifying grace of the Holy Spirit.

The sin against the Holy Ghost is more probably a culminating act of offense against His truth. His grace, or His still small voice within our hearts, than it is some overt, initial or solitary act of atrocious blasphemy.

All ministries should be meant and bent to bring souls into right relations with the Holy Ghost.—Heart and Life.

MISSIONARY MEETING.

Fort Fairfield, Me.

The Missionary meeting opened at 7.30 p. m. on the evening of Nov. 7th, 1919, by singing.

Scripture Reading and prayer.

Reading of Minutes, collecting of dues and offering.

The Sum Total—Edward Dow.

Farmer Close—Ruth Dow.

My Dolly—Elizabeth Curtiss.

The Tobacco Union—Frank Pearce.

A Loss—Grace Dow.

Let us Remember—Edna White.

The Master is Coming—Marion Curtis.

The Master's Call—Trio by Christian Hudson, Pearl Nightingale and Kenneth Cogswell.

Then we took up a study of Africa, with the map under the headings of Area, Rivers, Lakes, Forests, Deserts, Mineral Wealth, Mountains, Peoples, Churches, Mission Work, Religion and Missionary Societies of Africa given by different members of the Society.

Sheaf Exercise by five boys.

Singing—Bringing in the Sheaves.

Bringing Our Sheaves with Us—Verna White.

Remarks by pastor, singing and benediction.

MRS. OTIS AMES,
Corresponding Secy.

THE GOOD PASTOR.

The good pastor must be a good man. The slightest deviation from strict honesty or truthfulness is fatal, but this negative goodness is not sufficient. One may be just in all his dealings and not be a good man.

The good pastor must be a spiritual man. This spiritual element, this life of God in the heart, is the chief distinguishing feature of our religion. Without this no one can be a good pastor.

He may be an eloquent preacher; he may visit the people, converse with the sick, and pray with the dying; but if he is not conscious of the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, all his work and words will be sounding brass and tinkling cymbal.

The good pastor must be a man of deep and broad sympathy. If he cannot enter into the sorrows of the afflicted, if he is not touched with the stroke that crushes their spirits, he is not qualified for the office he has assumed. The pastor who does these things with cold indifference misrepresents his Master.

Profound sympathy will impel the pastor to render services which are not expected of him. The story of Phillips

Brooks taking care of the sick child of one of his parishioners, while she took the other children for an airing in the park, has been widely published.

If the pastor of Trinity Church, in Boston, had not been a great man, this expression of sympathy would not have excited so much comment. Obscure pastors are constantly doing these things quite as significant, but they are not reported in the papers.

The good pastor is a prudent man. He must deal with sensitive persons who are easily offended; he must deal with unreasonable men who cannot be persuaded to co-operate with him. Strange to say, these unreasonable people seem to think they are doing God service.

Great charity is required in order to think kindly and speak kindly under such circumstances. For this reason pastors need to pray for prudence.

There are times when special grace is necessary to enable the pastor to act prudently.

A pastor in the West was in the midst of his sermon one winter night, when the sexton, a tall, awkward, colored man, came slowly stalking down the aisle, looking at every person in each pew as he passed, until he reached the front pew.

A physician was called for. Rising deliberately, the doctor put on his overcoat. Then he proceeded to wrap a large muffler about his neck, fold after fold, as if to attract attention as long as possible. Then gathering up his hat and cane, he deliberately walked out.

The effect was disastrous. The preacher lost his hold on the congregation. To control himself, to avoid saying the word which would make matters worse, to gather himself together and regain his hold on the people, under such circumstances, required more wisdom than that particular pastor had at command. He said the wrong thing, and never ceased to regret it.

The good pastor loves his work. He does not complain when required to go through cold and storm to visit the sick and bury the dead.

He is not a man who can leave his work at a moment's notice any day to go on a pleasure excursion.

The pastor watches for souls. He is not a seeker after gold or fame or pleasure. His business is to save men.

To succeed in this office and work requires a higher order of manhood than any other calling demands.

While it is his duty to care for his health in order that he may serve his generation well, he must not be afraid to lay himself out unsparingly in this great work. No other work is so delicate, so difficult, so exacting, and no other yields so great reward.—Abridged from Advocate.

Many are called to the altar that are counted to the credit of the evangelist, who are never seen in the church after the services close—until the next revival.

"The day is dark only when the mind is dark; all weathers are pleasant when the heart is at rest."