

## THE PREACHER.

First of all the preacher should be a man—an all around, big, strong manly man. Holland's appeal should ring out in our call for preachers: "God give us men." The biggest man, the tallest manhood in all the community, should be the prophet of God. He has the biggest call, the divinest message, the most far-reaching result. It is the greatest thing in the world to preach the gospel. Every preacher should be impressed with the beauty, dignity and importance of his office. He should hold his office as a sacred, solemn trust; as a charge before God and the Lord Jesus Christ. A minister when asked to favor some questionable measure, replied: "But I am a preacher." "Well, what of that?" said his friend. "Why, everything that is lofty and great." "Oh," said his friend, "then that changes your attitude." Your call is divine, your message is from heaven and prepares for heaven. Every real minister of Jesus Christ is called and sent of God; he is an accredited messenger and representative of heaven; he is charged with the great commission to go and preach the gospel. The pulpit is where heaven and earth meet to discuss the affairs of God, Christ's Church and human redemption. You are guardians of truth, heralds of a holy, charming, sublime, God-given message. What responsibility and glory are comparable to that of the pulpit? It is God's torch to enlighten and safeguard a dark world. Preachers, don't trifle, don't idle. Love not ease, guard yourself well against the temptation to commercialism and professionalism, the lecture platform, popularity. Take heed to thyself." "Be thou an example." Be a man, the right kind of a man, God's man.

Old Thomas Carlyle drew a characteristic sketch of the true preacher. He concludes that "the beautifullest sight on earth is that of a man talking out of his inmost soul to his brother man about God and right and destiny." And this old Scotshman is grandly right. But the littlest, the meanest, the most contemptible and despicable creature is the preacher who compromises God and right and permits himself, for mercenary or other considerations, to be found on the side of evil.

Frederick F. Shannon says: "The tallest man in the universe is the preacher. Stand up your best physicist, lift to his shoulders your kingliest naturalist, then lift to his shoulders your wisest philosopher, and then pile on top of him your grandest poet, and the whole human pyramid will scarcely reach to the knees of a true preacher of the gospel. It is the call of God that makes his work so high and holy.

John the Divine wrote his Revelations unto the angels of the seven churches of Asia. These angels, "messengers," were the seven preachers in these churches, commissioned of God to declare the everlasting gospel. Have a care, preachers! You are the chosen messengers of Christ, angels sent to teach and minister to the heirs of salvation, and to preach the unsearchable riches of Christ. There is no calling higher, nobler, diviner, more sac-

red and blessed of God; none that bears greater influence for good, and that carries with it such weight of responsibility. Be sure that you are held as stars in the right hand of the Son of God.—The Cumberland Presbyterian.

## "THE MOST DANGEROUS HERESY."

Dr. Trumbull, Editor of the S. S. Times, in an address at the Moody Bible Institute, discussed the question, "What is the most dangerous heresy today?" He declared it to be the emphasis given in the Christian Church "on what we do for God, instead of on what God does for us."

He said: "This heresy is brought into Christian service everywhere. It is in most of the modern Christian 'Movements' of today. I have very dear friends in such Christian movements as the—the Men and Religious Movement that went through this country a few years ago, the Laymen's Missionary Movement—all of them being used of God to win souls, but all of them affected, injured, misled, weakened by this, I believe, most dangerous heresy of today—the emphasizing of what we do for God, instead of what God does for us."

Christian service is the fruit of the Gospel, but there is heresy and danger in magnifying it above the Gospel.

Salvation is of grace. "It is the gift of God. Not of works, lest any man should boast." When the first emphasis is put on service rather than faith, it tends to self-righteousness and boasting. The same is true when the emphasis is on anything besides the Gospel.

Paul, in the Epistle to the Ephesians makes this plain. No man ever had a better record for Christian service than he, but his emphasis is on grace and the new birth and God's love and mercy. "We are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus, unto good works which God has before ordained that we should walk in them."

The second chapter is an argument against the tendency to magnify works, however good and necessary, above the Gospel of salvation by grace through faith.—The Herald and Presbyter.

## QUICKENING THE SPIRITUAL LIFE.

Vital spiritual life is indispensable to any worth-while forward movement. God's order is always best. He did not organize a big church with all the details worked out and then galvanize it into life and set it into motion. But He first poured out the Holy Ghost on the waiting one-hundred-and-twenty in a mighty quickening baptism that electrified every individual member, and when converts began to multiply and the temporalities of the work needed caring for and systematizing, it was an easy matter for the Holy Ghost to say, "Separate me seven men, full of the Holy Ghost, to look after the serving of tables and the other temporalities of the church;" "separate those whom I have designated for the special work of the ministry and ordain them for this office;" "separate me Paul and Barnabas for the work whereunto I have called them." Life first, and organization and efficient activity in their order.—Wesleyan Methodist.

## OUR DUTY WHEN OUR TESTIMONY IS OPPOSED.

We have a threefold duty when we meet opposition to our testimony:

1. Our Duty to God.—We must not waver. God gives us our experience to publish. He says, "Ye are My witnesses." He never lights a candle to have us hide it under a bushel. His chief method of spreading His truth is by testimony. It is ungrateful to Him to flinch because some mortal does not accept it.

2. Our Duty to Those Who Oppose It. We must have pity for them. We were once in the same benighted condition, but God and the saints were patient with us, or we never would have been brought into the light. If we believe what some blinded people think we do, we would oppose it too. We, in our blindness, would not allow others to drive us, and we must remember that no one can be successfully brought into the light by driving. If they were, they would not be good for much, after all. We must love them. If we have perfect love, we shall love them. If we get bitter, it will be because we have lost the love out of our own hearts. For our own soul's sake, we cannot afford to be bitter towards any one. If we have the Spirit of Christ we shall feel what He prayed, "Father, forgive them; they know not what they do." If we do not have this spirit, we have not perfect love, and it was something else after all that was persecuted.

3. Our Duty to Ourselves.—This is by no means small. God has put our own destiny into our own keeping. If we honor Him with our testimony, He will honor us. If we withhold our testimony, we shall lose our ground. Therefore, for God, humanity, and our own welfare, let us tell 'the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth.'—Christian Witness.

## MINDING.

"How do I make him go where I want to?" asked Jimsie. "That's easy. If I pull the right rein, he turns to the right; if I want to go to the left, I pull the other rein. That's all. He always minds."

"And you can teach a goat all that?" asked Uncle Wesley.

"Sure," answered Jimsie.

"Queer that boys aren't as smart as goats," said his uncle.

"They's heaps smarter," answered Jimsie indignantly.

"So?" questioned his uncle. "Seems to me I heard somebody's mother say this morning that her small boy never came when she called him, and she did not know what she was going to do to teach him to mind. Guess she'd like to be able to pull a rein to have her boy go where the rein told him to!"

"Humph!" said Jimsie slowly. "I guess I'll go and do that errand right now."

And before Uncle Wesley could answer, the goat team under Jimsie's guidance had turned down the street.—Sel.

"There is nothing so white as a thoroughly blood-washed soul."