

part of the office of apostleship has descended to successors until now. Preachers are called by God to spend their lives in maintaining and in propagating the truth. This is only to say that preachers are champions of orthodoxy. It is their mission to "contend earnestly for the faith once delivered to the saints." The world may sneer if it please, but, my brethren in the ministry, to teach the truth, to stand for right thinking, for orthodoxy, is our trust received from God. We are put in trust with the Gospel. When we are faithful we are fellow-workers with Christ and with the Holy Spirit. It is a glorious, an unspeakably glorious and exalting fellowship. Let us see to it that we be not ashamed of Christ and of His words. We are set, each one of us, for the defence of the Gospel. Who is sufficient for these things? But our sufficiency is of God. We shall prevail if we consent to speak, not in words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth. In these times of itching ears and tameless tongues, let us not blush to be called orthodox. Ye are my witnesses, says God. Let us be true witnesses. But whether we are true or false as individual ministers, yet God abideth faithful. He cannot deny himself. In the very fact that the office and order of ministers have been established by Him, God gives the world a token of His interest in orthodoxy. In His ministers, by virtue of their being ministers, God speaks to men. In them, God takes the attitude of one pleading for truth. Every time that a minister preaches, it is as if God did beseech you. Be ye reconciled to God, consent to think as God thinks, submit to be orthodox. God appears thus, through the ministry of the Gospel, in a perpetual ambassadorship to men on behalf of the truth. The mere existence of such a ministry is God's sign of His desire that we should be orthodox.

My hearers, in view of what we have found to be the Scriptural estimate of orthodoxy, shall we heed, or shall we spurn the counsel of our text? We have learned that to think right we must be right, that to be right we must think right, and that thinking right is a part, a large part, of being right. We have learned that the Bible exists for the purpose, on God's part, of making us think right, that Christ came to make us think right, that the Holy Spirit is in the world to make us think right, that to make us think right the Church is maintained; and an ambassadorship of God to men continued from age to age. Is not all this enough to convince us? Are we ready to obey?

Buy the truth and sell it not. Pay the price required. Buy with obedience. Buy with study. Buy with self-denial. Buy with self-sacri-