

and faithful ambassador for Christ will never degrade himself or his office by "serving tables." His office is always one of service, watchful diligence, and unceasing toil. It is not a sinecure, a mere professional office, without duties or responsibilities. The term implies work, hard work, fidelity and diligence in the discharge of onerous duties. The work of the holy ministry of Christ calls for much self-denial and self-sacrifice. He who takes upon himself the orders of office and shirks the work and lives at ease and in comfort, while the Church is languishing, millions of men are without the gospel, and sinners are perishing around us every day and every hour, cannot and will not escape the just consequences of his conduct. The writer of our text felt the awful responsibility of the office resting so heavily upon him that he exclaimed, "Who is sufficient for these things?" and "Woe is me if I preach not the gospel." He magnified the office, in season and out of season, by faithful toil and by patient and heroic suffering; and at the end of a long life of peril and pain, he died a martyr's death. Mr. Spurgeon has well said, that no man should take upon himself the office of the ministry, unless he felt that he could not live without preaching the gospel. This he might safely take as a divine call to the office and to the work of the ministry. The office is one of work and service, and of great responsibility. "The Master," our great example, when speaking to his disciples with regard to his own mission, said, "The Son of Man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister." He wished to teach them that while their office was one of great honour it was also one of service. He was the greatest, who was the "servant of all." St. Paul used his knowledge of human nature, with much tact and wisdom. He admits that he used what he calls "guile," in adapting himself to the circumstances, prejudices, and mental habits of his hearers. Some have even thought that he almost went a little too far in this line, and therefore, those who take him as a model, have need of much care, lest on this point they overstep the boundary of consistency, for too much policy is a dangerous thing, as it exposes a man to the charge of insincerity. But St. Paul being wise and inspired, knew well how far to go and where and when to stop. But while there may be some need of care on our part in relation to this point in our ministerial life, there is some danger of being too stiff and professional; for if the people amongst whom we are called to labor once get it into their heads that the clergyman is haughty and vain, his usefulness is gone, and the sooner he seeks another field the better. But better still, if he pray for the Lord to make him humble and poor in spirit.

Adaptation is a word which all clergymen, especially young clergymen, should study, and well apply to themselves and their work. For the want of adapting himself to circumstances and to the people of his