

are very helpful in directing the seekers after salvation. Each pastor must choose for himself the weapons out of God's armory. The truth that is best adapted to the case of A may not be exactly what B or C or D may require. This emphasizes the necessity of dealing with each individual by himself or herself. We may preach to a multitude; but souls are saved or lost *one by one*. Hand-picked apples keep the longest. The Book of the Acts of the Apostles is largely the narrative of apostolic labors with individual souls. One immortal soul is always a tremendous audience.

During my early ministry I obtained much help from a constant study of that extraordinary book, Dr. Ichabod S. Spencer's "Pastor's Sketches; or, Conversations with Anxious Inquirers." He had a Shakespearean insight into the human heart, and his narratives are both thrilling in interest and amazingly helpful in showing pastors how to co-operate with the Divine Spirit. If the book is out of print, it ought to be reprinted for the use of young ministers. I found it second only to John Bunyan's "Pilgrim" in throwing heavenly light upon the pathway of salvation. Valuable as this or any other volume may be, every pastor must himself *inquire for the Holy Spirit's* guidance and aid before he can lead any inquirers to Jesus Christ.

V.—LIGHT ON SCRIPTURAL TEXTS FROM RECENT DISCOVERIES.

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I.

THE DIVINE WINGS.

ONE of the most touching passages in the Bible is that in which Boaz gives his blessing to Ruth for her faithfulness to her mother-in-law, and he says, "The Lord recompense thy work, and a full reward be given thee of the Lord God of Israel, under whose wings thou art come to trust" (Ruth ii. 12). In the book of Psalms there are half-a-dozen similar passages in which the Divine wings are spoken of. The Psalmist will hide himself "under the shadow of Thy wings" (Ps. xvii. 8); the faithful "put their trust under the shadow of Thy wings" (Ps. xxxvi. 7); they "trust in the covert of Thy wings" (Ps. lxxvi. 4); and in Malachi iv. 2 we are told that upon those who fear God "the Sun of righteousness shall arise with healing in His wings."

I suppose that to nearly every one who reads these passages the figure which has presented itself has been that of a bird brooding over her young, the same figure which our Lord uses when He says that He would have gathered the children of Jerusalem together as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings. This, however, is an utterly inadequate and belittling figure, very different from that which was in the mind of the Hebrew writers.

Under what picture, if one were to make a picture, would a Jew have figured God? He was not allowed to make any representation of the Divine Being in the likeness of anything in heaven, or earth, or sea. The figures of idols were hateful to him, whether they were human in form or bestial. He did represent angelic powers under composite wing forms, and the cherubim was sculptured in the temple. But they were different, certainly, in form from the idea