

sponsibility rests upon us! It ought to be the first object with every minister who intends to lean his dying head upon the Savior's bosom, and the judgment seat without paleness and trembling, to ascertain what are the obstacles that lie in the way of his doing a great work for Jesus Christ and the good of souls. Surely, my brethern, if we survey for one moment, the elevated post of responsibility which we now occupy, we shall lift our eyes to heaven and cry, "*who is sufficient for these things?*"

2, *This subject enforces upon us MINISTERIAL DUTY.*

If the views presented in this discourse are correct, then the ministers of Jesus Christ ought to adopt and pursue that course which will best promote the powerful applications, and the final triumph of the gospel. It is their duty to aim at great usefulness in preaching. Two things ought fully to impress the heart. One is, that we are solemnly bound to avoid that course which must, on every principle of rational calculation, impede the progress of gospel truth; and the other, to adopt that which will make the deepest and the best impression on a lost world. If these two points were constantly before the eyes of ministers, a new impulse would be given to the gospel, and the millenium would fly upon rapid wings to meet us. If the pressure of duty and of souls were to rest upon us *now*, as they will rest upon us at the judgment bar, how cheerfully would we sacrifice a multiplicity of minor objects for the one sole purpose of presenting the bleeding Savior to dying men; how soon should we dismiss our indolence, and brace up every nerve and stimulate every muscle to labor for God: how little should we amuse ourselves or others with mere pulpit speculations; how anxious should we be to find, for the simple truth of the Bible, an avenue to the conscience and heart; How should we lean upon God for a blessing; what a death blow would be given to ministerial animosities; with what tenderness inspired of heaven should we strengthen each others hands and encourage each others hearts; and with what powers of truth and entreaty, could we then come down upon our immortal hearers whom we shall soon meet amidst the dread scenes of another world While I tenderly present these thoughts to my brethern, I would impose upon my own soul, a double injunction to be faithful.

3. *This subject furnishes motives to MINISTERIAL ACTION.*

We have seen that a certain course, in the ministry, is necessary to success. It was so in the days of the apostles; it is so at the present day. God has blessed—and he will continue to bless—a certain course of moral and spiritual action. Here then is a motive which ought to enlist our last power in

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