

will be in proportion to our holy living. Our stability and prosperity depend almost entirely upon the possession of this power.

Our machinery may be perfect, our ministry educated and eloquent, our people refined and well-to-do; but what of all these without the Spirit's power. We fear there is a tendency in some quarters to subordinate the spirit to the secular, the divine to the human. This is a great mistake,—a sin; and no wonder that worldliness exists in our midst. When this is done it cannot be otherwise, until we feel that conversions depend not upon human ability, but alone upon the Holy Spirit, and growth in church life, upon profounder piety.

Let all our ministers resolve that this year upon which we have just entered shall be more abundantly prosperous than the past. To this end let there be a more full and complete giving up to the faithful and conscientious performance of the numerous and important duties, private and public, of their holy calling.

Dear Brethren, suffer the word of exhortation. Yours is a high and holy vocation, one which relates to the spiritual and eternal interests of your race. Momentous issues depend upon the honest and faithful discharge of the functions of your exalted office. Your life and word will be the savor of life or death to those among whom you may labor. Hence we ask your kindly acceptance of a few words of brotherly counsel. Cultivate carefully and continuously personal piety. Do not attend to your duties of preaching, conducting prayer meetings, visiting, holding open air services, as mere matters of routine.

Men of other callings may, perhaps, perform efficiently the duties pertaining to their profession without much sympathy of feeling with the same; but if you would be successful ministers of the Lord Jesus Christ, your whole soul must be absorbed in your work. Let there be an agreeableness of manner, a modesty of dress and speech, a moderation in the gratification of your personal wants and wishes, a gentleness toward all men, a constant industry, a generous hospitality, a profound prayerfulness, an unswerving faith, a burning zeal, an insatiable thirst for the salvation of souls, and a God honoring purpose characterizing you in all your efforts to do good, and these will command the admiration and co-operation of the people among whom your lot may be cast. Endeavour to make your visiting effectual; do not let it degenerate into gossip, about business, the weather, or the crops,—remember you are not a merchant, or a dealer, but a minister of the cross of Christ. Your work is first with the souls of the families and not their worldly prospects. Let there be no light and frothy conversation, (it enervates the soul), but let it be seasoned with grace,—such as becometh the gospel of Christ. Speak a few personal, kindly, Christian words, to old and young, read the Scriptures, if possible, and offer a brief

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