

In the Bible the form or clothing of the truth often has only a local adaptation, and we all know that the work of the expositor is to lay aside the clothing, and reveal the truth, that he may apply it to the spiritual needs of the people. It has sometimes been a surprise to me that we are so jealous of the form, when we most applaud the preacher who is most successful in lifting truth out of the setting in which it is found in the Bible, and placing it in the forms of our daily life, and that we are so anxious to study theology, which is just a determination of the fundamental truths of the Bible and their systemization into convenient scientific formulæ. It is because truth can be taken out of the forms in which we find it in the Bible that it is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction and instruction in righteousness, and that it answers the supreme purpose of inspiration, furnishing the man of God thoroughly unto all good works.

To sum up that to which we have so far attained, we may place it under the following propositions :

1. Truth is that portion of knowledge which is convertible into moral force.

2. The *truths* of the Bible are directly revealed and inspired by God. They set forth the attributes of the divine nature, and the relation of each of these to mankind.

3. Christ, being the fulness of the Godhead bodily, was the embodiment of all truth. The revelation of the truth which He made was the product of His own peculiarly gifted mental nature.

4. The prophets and apostles were made recipients of truth according to their capacity, and they set it forth according to their ability, the divine efflatus being upon them, both in receiving and in imparting their message.

5. Besides those portions of the Bible written under the impulse of the Spirit of God, there are other portions placed in the book under the superintendency of heaven, though not primarily produced with a view to being placed in the record. They however furnish instruction respecting the sovereignty and care of God, and are profitable for instruction in righteousness.