

in listening to the awful majesty and blended tenderness of that voice, which is as the sound of many waters. This acquaintance with divine things prepares for the work. Meditate upon these things; give thyself wholly to them; that thy profiting may appear to all. Take heed unto thyself, and unto the *doctrine*.

Having thus a knowledge of the things of God which are to be the grand themes of the Gospel ministry, there are a few particulars worthy of being noted by the rising ministry, connected with their setting forth in a right spirit, and with holy unction, the wonders of redemption. Take then, beloved young brethren, these admonitions.

Guard against handling divine truth in a mere professional manner. It has often been felt that there is a danger to the theological student from the frequent recurrence of spiritual subjects as objects of philosophical investigation. This has sometimes begotten a habit of mentally viewing questions of thrilling interest to one's personal welfare in a cold and formal manner. The head is exercised, but the heart is neglected. Keep then the affections of your own souls warm with the constant friction of personal contact with the truth. Think how much depends on you in the solemn position you occupy. The cure of souls is work of the highest character, for which a meet preparation is not found in the possession and enunciation of a mere creed, unfelt in the heart and uninfluential in the life. Theology as a science is doubtless good, yet it is to be remembered, that it is the working of mighty truth in its practical power and suitability, as brought to the hearts and consciences of men, that produces the signal triumphs of conversion and growth in grace. Hence all superficial handling of the unsearchable riches of Christ is to be deprecated. We dare not rush in with unseemly haste where an angel might fear to tread. A deep inspiration drawn from fellowship with Christ, will prove a safeguard from the blighting curse of unfeeling familiarity with the sacred themes of life and death. Seek to be unto God a sweet savour of Christ in them that are saved and in them that perish. Word painting, however bold the strokes, however delicate the touches will never do *that*. Appeals to the mere sensibilities of men fail to accomplish *that*. It is the glorious truths of the blessed Gospel commended to men's reason—the claims of God pressed on their consciences—the spirit of Jesus falling in the glances of Godlike love on their wounded and longing hearts—and the provisions of grace brought to supply their wants—with the fervor of a heartfelt interest—that secures the ends of a Gospel ministry.

Cherish, therefore, an experimental acquaintance with the truth. When you take honey out of the Rock, you can carry it to others. Tasting it for yourselves, you can commend it to those for whom you labor. This demonstration to your own minds of the sweetness of heaven's truths, will enable you to cry, "O taste and see that God is good." In apostolic spirit, if not with apostolic power, you will declare that which you have seen and felt. Nurse, then, true piety in your college course. Let your life there be distinguished by a close walk with God. Avail yourselves of these years of retirement and study, to penetrate further into the secret of God's pavilion. Enter into the closet, and there from soul communings with the Eternal, take on an impress that shall cause your faces to shine with a heavenly expression. Remember that God's servants have ever been braced for action in the calm of that audience chamber, where they have pleaded for, and secured strength and grace sufficient for them. What successes have been achieved by those who have allied themselves to Omnipotence! Think of the mighty power wielded by those who from the secret chamber of devotion have come forth clothed with an energy derived from heaven, to turn men from the power of Satan unto God. The spirit of prayer must be strong, and the habit of prayer delightful and fixed, before the accomplishment of those results which bring glory to God in the salvation of men.

Allow me further to add—Keep yourselves in sympathy with the wants of your fellow men. Your retirement from the activities of life, must not be allowed to isolate you from a knowledge of men and things as they are. Your intercourse