

in the house of His friends, but none have struck deeper than those given by the hands of a minister. Depend upon it our lives are far more influential than our sermons, and the devil is far more anxious to injure the one than the other. See, then, that you be living epistles, seen and read of all men. Wherever you are deficient, be right here. Live so that all who know you may take notice of you, that you have been with Jesus. Study carefully the directions given you by your great Master. Hide His words in your hearts.

*Expect results.* Properly applied labour brings results elsewhere, and surely they should *here*. The farmer plants his field and expects the crop; the fisherman throws out his net and expects a haul of fishes; and are *we*, doing a *great* work, and with *God* for our *helper*, to sow our seed and not expect a harvest; to cast our net by Divine guidance, and never secure a fish? Common sense as well as Christian faith rejects the idea. I know we shall not be always reaping and never sowing; but we surely are not to be *always sowing*, and *never reaping*. Rather let us rejoice in the certainty of the promise that "They that sow in tears shall reap in joy."

*"It is required of stewards, that they be found faithful."*

*The world expects it.* When a man undertakes an office he is always expected to discharge the duties connected therewith. It is so with the soldier. It is so with the fireman, it is so with the policeman, and it is so with the Christian minister. And for this reason I confess I like to see men separated to this work with a little distinction in their dress. It is a public avowal of the high office they sustain. It is sometimes a restraint to them, and it frequently opens their way for great usefulness.

The world often expects too much from us, it is true; but the height of the standard which they erect is an