

Pastor, is to do the will of Christ. The Apostle says, "Be ye followers of me, as I also am of Christ," and no man should attempt to mould the religious character of a people, without like Josiah, imposing the same religious obligations *first* upon himself.

Indeed the Saviour has placed the duty of obedience the first, as well for the teacher as the taught. Matthew v. 19: "Whosoever therefore shall break one of these least commandments, and shall teach men so, he shall be called the least in the kingdom of heaven: but whosoever shall do and teach them, the same shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven." May it never be said truthfully of us, Ministers and Pastors, as it was of the Scribes and Pharisees, "They say, and do not. For they bind heavy burdens, and grievous to be borne, and lay them on men's shoulders; but they themselves will not move them with one of their fingers."

But as it is sometimes difficult and self-crucifying to apply the teachings and requirements of the gospel to one-self, so may we expect that the application of them will be to others. Yet who that is a faithful and trustworthy physician, will withhold the requisite medicine, because it appears offensive, or refrain from probing the wound or adjusting the fracture because it occasions pain. And yet is it not to be feared that we who profess to be physicians in a higher and more responsible sense, even the physicians of souls, occasion many to go sickly and limping through life simply because we shrink, in the time when it is needed, from applying the doctrines, reproofs, or corrections, which the Bible enjoins, and the church requires. Many, no doubt, in all our churches, as in the churches of all time, by the repugnance which they manifest to the plain, pointed, practical, preaching of God's Word, say to their ministers, as was said to the prophets of old, "Speak unto us smooth things." But it