

and why should we? It may not tickle the ears of the populace nearly so readily as an oration on some other themes. The minister who advertises as his topic for next Sunday evening some political or social question, may have more hearers than he who announces as his theme, God's love to man; but we have no reason to believe that he will do more good, or even as much good, to the many who throng his meeting-house and are convinced that all he has said is true, as he would have done had he led a single soul to believe the gospel of Jesus Christ.

We read "The gospel is the power of God unto salvation." We nowhere read, "Social science or political economy or politics is the power of God unto salvation." A well delivered discourse on "Man's duty to the state" may make a man a better citizen. An eloquent oration against "monopolies and corruption in high places" may arouse men to work against these, while they remain out of sympathy with other reforms which are equally important. The frequent delivery of temperance discourses may make a man a temperance enthusiast or even a temperance crank, and still leave him more untruthful, more dishonest, and less honorable than many a bartender. What is needed to produce an all-round character—to enlist the sympathies of men in every needed reform—is to preach the gospel to them, and if possible get them to accept it. If the people of our land can only be brought to believe thoroughly in the love of God as it is set forth in the gospel story, there will be little difficulty in putting them right on all the questions of the day. The man who once comes to realize how God has loved him will in turn love God and all that God is known to love. For such an one to deceive his neighbor habitually, or wrong him in any selfish way, is morally impossible—as impossible as it would be for a fresh water fountain to send forth salt streams. If the heart be purified by the love of God, the acts which flow from it will be pure.

Thus far we have seen the apologetic value of our text and