

to re-construct, imperfectly it may be, Paul's general conception of the ministry. There is no figure in any age which so deserves to be set up as a model for Christian ministers, and there is no pastor who so clearly apprehended God's thought of the ministry which he had "received of the Lord Jesus Christ." Let us examine then Paul's idea of

I. *The Minister as a Man.*—On two different occasions Paul specified at considerable length the qualifications of a minister of Jesus Christ. The first passage is I Tim. 3: 2-7—"A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, vigilant, sober, of good behaviour, given to hospitality, apt to teach; not given to wine, no striker, not greedy of filthy lucre; but patient, not a brawler, not covetous; one that ruleth well his own house, having his children in subjection with all gravity; (for if a man know not how to rule his own house, how shall he take care of the church of God?); not a novice, lest being lifted up with pride he fall into the condemnation of the devil. Moreover, he must have a good report of them which are without, lest he fall into reproach and the snare of the devil." So when Paul directs Titus to ordain elders, he gives the same directions almost to a word—"If any be blameless, the husband of one wife, having faithful children, not accused of riot or unruly. For a bishop must be blameless as the steward of God; not self-willed, not soon angry, not given to wine, no striker, not given to filthy lucre; but a lover of hospitality, a lover of good men, sober, just, holy, temperate; holding fast the faithful word as he hath been taught, that he may be able by sound doctrine both to exhort and to convince the gainsayers." Titus 1: 6-9. He urges Timothy to be "an ensample to them that believe, in word, in manner of life, in love, in faith, in purity; and he himself is so conscious of being without reproach that he exhorts the Philippians as follows:—"The things which ye both learned and received and heard and saw in me, these things do, and the God of peace shall be with you." It would seem from these passages that any disciple of Christ, of blameless manners and pure character, meek, forbearing, temperate, sober, just, holy, thoroughly attached to the doctrines of the gospel, having a natural gift for teaching and having some experience in the Christian life—not a novice