

The lives of these men are an argument—a living Gospel, that the ungodly can neither ignore nor gainsay. It is because men see in the world so much that is contrary to the teachings of the Sabbath that they become sceptical of their power and influence. The thousand sermons of worldliness during the week, outweigh the one or two of godliness on the Sunday.

The ministry of the Word is a divinely appointed office. In the constitution of human society, it is necessary for some to give themselves wholly thereto, in order to attain that careful preparation, that profound and critical acquaintance with the sacred text that shall qualify them for the profitable exposition of the oracles of God. Moreover, those engrossed in the cares of life and in carrying on the business of the world, have not the time nor opportunity for pastoral duties, for the visitation of the sick and afflicted, that is necessary. But this separation of duties need not, and should not, lead to a separation of sympathies and interests. It is when preacher and people are united and labour together for the glory of God that the work of God shall go on successfully. We know of no system of Church organization in the world which so well combines these advantages as our beloved Methodism. It, in its ideal, which, thank God, is often also its actual, is, as Dr. Chalmers has expressed it, "Christianity in earnest; all at it, and always at it." This is, on the human side, the secret of its success. This is one element of its strength. In so far as it manifests this spirit, it shall receive the Divine blessing and shall prosper. In so far as it departs therefrom it shall fail. Let us, therefore, as preachers and people, devote ourselves, at the beginning of another ecclesiastical year, in renewed and united consecration to the work of God. So shall the year be one of great spiritual blessing. So shall God prosper the work of our hands, yea, the work of our hands He shall establish it.

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