

marriages, funerals, parties, and the like, is taking the road to bankruptcy and dishonesty; and using the most effectual measures to ruin his family as well as himself. The question is too often asked, "What will the world think if I do not do as others do, and incur this, that, and the other expense?" If you cannot do so without, I will not say consuming the means which God requires you as a faithful steward to devote to His cause and the enterprises of charity, for that is not fashionable to take into account, but without failing to meet your business engagements and pay your debts, you are a dishonest man, and, whatever professions you make, are utterly unworthy of the name of Christian.

Preachers of the Gospel are sometimes trammelled in their efforts of usefulness by this fear of the charge of Eccentricity. That is to say, the attractiveness, point, and power of preaching are impaired by what have been regarded as "pulpit proprieties," though propagated by the fashion plates of the Enemy of souls. As a general thing our preaching is most deplorably inefficient, compared with what the exigencies of perishing souls require it to be. I fear that the true apostolic earnestness, directness, and feeling which should characterize the preaching of the Gospel, would be considered dreadfully eccentric in many congregations and by a large proportion of church-goers. Far be it from me to advocate unusual sayings and doings for the sake of singularity; but if doing what Christ and His apostles did, and all successful soul-savers have done, brings upon a minister the charge of Eccentricity, he ought to be more than willing to bear it. The weeping Jeremiah, the vehement Ezekiel, the thundering John and James, and the tireless Paul would be considered eccentric by many so-called Christians now; nay, so would their Master himself if He were to come again, setting at naught the quibbles of Rabbis and those matters of no value which have been associated with religion. Spurgeon, Peter Mc Kenzie, Talmage, Moody, and nearly all our most successful men are considered eccentric by many. But would you, therefore, extinguish the individuality of those gloriously useful men? Would that their numbers were increased a thousand-fold! Wesley, Whitfield, Coke, and Asbury were regarded as eccentric by many in the day in which they lived and laboured. Could the Christian