

in any church to bring the school and church together by occupying their minds with the same portion of Scripture. The minister must lead in this matter—push it on by every solicitation. He is looked up to; and if he insists from the Word, that the people must know the Word of God, it will bring about this service. Then the ancient method of studying the Scriptures must be revived—the method practised by Christ and His apostles, and the early Christians to the third century, and that was to search the Scriptures to find Christ by the Socratic method of question and answer. I don't wonder people in the Presbyterian Church are sealed up and don't speak in meetings. You keep people dumb 104 times a year and they will stay dumb. The idea of my first congregation was to mentally assent or dissent. That is like pouring water on a duck's back, it did not get into the heart, because they thought I was giving my opinion, and they had a right to theirs. When I got them in front of me in a Bible-class, I asked them if they believed the Bible to be God's Word; they assented. Then I said we must hear God's Word, not discuss; there is nothing to discuss. The first Sunday they began to discuss high doctrine, and they asked me what I thought of it. I told them I didn't think; I asked them to read the passage in Romans. I don't allow arguing. They said they believed the Bible, and I asked them to read it for themselves, which they did, and they confessed they had got their views second-hand. God will tell us His truth if you let Him. The Bible is shut up as much to-day as in the dark ages—not bound in the same way, but shut out by everything else. My successor in that Bible-class answered questions by referring to what Dr. Hodge and Dr. Whedon said, and when asked what he thought, he would say: Well, I should say I agree with Dr. Hodge. The class dwindled down, because the members thought there were so many views it didn't make much difference which they adopted. The Sunday-school lessons of to-day are covered up by the leaflets—what the human doctors say. The older members of the church studying the Bible themselves and listening to what God says—that is the Bible-study we want. We had a washerwoman in the class who could always give light—she taught me and everyone in the class, because she got it from the Lord Himself by studying over it at the washtub. In the Sunday-schools of to-day the greater number of scholars, and I fear the teachers, have no consciousness of having spoken to the Spirit Himself. Instead of crowding the church into its own space, and thinking the sermons morning and evening are the great things, there must be reconstruction if the Church is to walk forth in her strength. Suppose a congregational-class here, the pastor leading, Bible in all hands, the pastor asks one to read a passage, and asks what he finds in it. The Bereans searched the Scriptures to see whether these things were so, and they were more noble than those of Thessalonica. The whole Sunday-school system should be united with this

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