

classic English. There is a spell in the word fitly spoken that wins cultured ears. It is as apples of gold in pictures of silver. The English language is a noble legacy, and the pulpit, far more than is common to-day, ought to be the guardian of its purity,

40. What a charm also in *good reading*, and especially the appreciative reading of the word of God. No book furnishes such scope, and none suffers more from faulty reading. How often do you hear it read in a slovenly, careless manner, with utter disregard to the sense of the passage. How faulty the style that would read Psalms 90 or 51 as you would read a historical chapter from the Acts, or that would read one of Paul's *prayers* as you would read his *speeches*, or that would read Job xvii as Matt. xxiii. In reading try to feel as if no book were before you, and let the story, words, meaning come fresh to you from the man who wrote it. Read a psalm as if you had heard David speak it. When reading the Bible place yourself alongside the men who wrote the Bible, and try to see what they saw, and feel what they felt, and give it as if it were Isaiah, Jeremiah, Peter or Paul. And this natural way of reading will bring out meanings of which the people were before ignorant.

41. Teach the people to use their pew-bibles, and to follow you in the reading of the lessons. The use of the pew-bible is one of the blessed features of Scotch Presbyterianism, but is almost unknown in the United States. It is a grand inspiration to the preacher to hear the rustle of the leaves when a chapter is announced or a reference made to a passage.

42. *Study appropriateness.* What a wonderful study our Lord's methods furnish us of adaptation, and how he popularized truth and sent it home with gracious power to men's business and bosoms—a word in season. His was always the word fitly spoken. The parable, allegory, anecdote, simile, familiar home scenes, the philosophy of common life, &c., were methods unknown to the scribes, and the lessons from his lips came like showers on the thirsty ground. He taught the people as they were able to bear it, and He gathered His lessons and illustrations from the common scenes and incidents of every day life. All the points He made spring out of the circumstances of the hour and place. Hence the common people heard Him gladly and grew interested in His sermons because they had such evident relations to their felt wants. Adopt His methods and you will find what a wide scope you will have for sanctified scholarship in searching out acceptable words, and bringing out of the heavenly treasures things new and old, and in giving to each his portion.

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