

"repentance towards God, and faith in our Lord Jesus Christ;" setting before all alike that "if any man have not the spirit of Christ he is none of his," that, "unless a man be born again he cannot see the kingdom of God." These truths faithfully declared, will not be acceptable to the natural man, but we are bound to perform the part of faithful watchmen, whether the people will hear, or whether they will forbear, our warning must therefore be given with no uncertain sound, we must "declare all the counsel of God," that "we may be pure from the blood of all men." This office of Watchmen we are to perform with all love, with an earnest desire for the salvation of souls, in "meekness instructing them which oppose themselves, if God peradventure will grant them repentance to the acknowledgment of the truth." As Stewards, it is required that a man be found faithful, St. Paul (in 1 Cor. IV., 12,) says, "Let a man so account of us as Ministers of Christ and Stewards of the Mysteries of God." As we have been allowed of God to be put in trust with the Gospel, it becomes us faithfully to dispense it; like the great Apostle of the Gentiles, we are to keep back nothing that is profitable to the people. He could not surely be regarded as a faithful Steward of the Mysteries of God, who would deliberately suppress any part of Divine truth committed to him. Following the example of our blessed Lord and His Apostles, the faithful Steward of Christ will endeavour, that every thing which God has revealed in his Holy Word for the instruction of men, shall in due measure be presented to them. Thus only can he "fulfil the ministry which he has received of the Lord Jesus, to testify the Gospel of the grace of God."

Amongst the many means of grace which God has appointed in the Church, and in the diligent use of which we are to fulfil the duties of Messengers, Watchmen, and Stewards of the Lord, the preaching of the word stands pre-eminent. The pulpit is the Minister's great battle-field. There he conquers, or is overcome. And, here, I would address myself