

contains some truth, at least, or has met some want. It should not, therefore, be cast aside without careful examination, or without anxious consideration of the merits of what is proposed to be substituted in its place. But I have never regarded antiquity, simply in itself, as any sure test of truth. If, then I have walked in the old paths it is not, I repeat, because they are old, but because, so far as I am able to judge, they are good.

These fifty years, I need hardly tell you, have been fruitful in change, more fruitful in this respect than, perhaps, any equal period in the world's history. There have been changes, important, far-reaching, industrial, economic, social, political, scientific, and many of them have been most beneficial, to be welcomed, to be matters of joy and thanksgiving. And all this being the case, why, it may be asked, may not religion—may not the religion of Christ, undergo the same process, and be in like manner improved? I reply, because *man* has not changed. In the Twentieth Century, he is the same erring, sinful, guilty, miserable, being, that he was in the First. *He* has not changed, nor for this reason can that truth change which the Bible, given by inspiration of God in its every part, and the Bible alone, reveals, and which truth alone, when understood and believed, can bring to him the redemption he needs. Convictions such as these, the reading, the reflection, the experience of these many years, have not shaken, but confirmed. I cannot help believing, therefore, that if Christianity is to maintain its healing, renewing, redeeming, power, it must be regarded, substantially, in the old light, based on the old grounds, defended by the old methods, and preached in the old way. Such has been the character, generally, of my ministry, and the reasons for it. Time will not permit me here to enter into any detail. I may mention, however, that my first sermon in this church, as your minister, was from the text:—"We preach Christ Crucified." and this has been the sum and substance of my preaching ever since, as I believe it to be the sum and substance of the Bible itself. In this, and in its related truths, is the great mystery of Godliness. Here and here only, I believe, and as I believe have I spoken, is the secret for sinful, guilty, suffering men,