Paul were specially fitted to meet the needs of the Reformation period, the teachings of Christ are exactly suited to the conditions of our time.    We are on the brink of great changes.    The atmosphere is surcharged with an electricity that will annihilate or purify our civilization.    The church of God must lead in making these sacrifices and efforts that are necessary to establish society on a righteous foundation, and in order to restrain the excesses of those who are running this tendency to extremes, and to guide the Lord's people aright our religious teachers must give close attention to those Scriptures which are particularly adapted to the conditions of our day.

## I.—THE KEYNOTE OF CHRIST'S PRACTICAL TEACHINGS IS MARK 8 : 34-37, AND PARALLELS.

By practical, I mean the precepts that apply to the conduct of believers, as distinct from the Atonement and its associated doctrines to which they owe their salvation.    The passage is as follows :  " Whosoever will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.    For whosoever shall save his life shall lose it ; but whosoever shall lose his life for My sake and the Gopel's, the same shall save it.    For what shall it profit a man if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul ?    Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul ? "    It is held by some that the Sermon on the Mount is the centre of all Christ's teachings, but the Sermon on the Mount can neither be understood nor practised unless read in the light of this passage.

The three synoptists connect this statement with Christ's prediction of His death, which followed Peter's testimony to His Messiahship, in Caesarea Philippi, while John associates a similar statement with a prophecy of His crucifixion which followed the visit of the Greeks.    Thus in the Scripture as in the life of the believer, absolute self-surrender is the connecting link between the Saviour's atoning death, and our obedience to His commands.  Put Christ's precepts before His atonement, and they are an impossible ideal.  Put them after