

in the development of the forces at their command, we would have it become a channel of communication between these, that the less experienced may be helped by those of larger experience, and the general work of the Church be rendered more efficient by suggestions born of successes or warnings consequent on failures. With the idea of realizing this end, we venture to suggest the following topics for the consideration and treatment of our readers: The Pastor and his Relations to the Sunday-School; The Pastor and the Choir Master; Should the Pastor Lead the Prayer-Meeting? Should Youthful Converts be given Public Service, and if so, What? How to Hold Young Men in Church and Sabbath-School; Should the Sunday-school Lesson be Studied at the Prayer-Meeting? Should a Church ever Contract a Debt? Church Fairs—are they Desirable or Undesirable? Donation Parties—do they Foster the Selfishness of Church Members? Annual Clearances of Church Obligations; The Free Pew *versus* the Pew Rental System; How increase the Efficiency of Church Officials? Women Officials in Churches; Should our Churches ever be Closed? The Church—how far a Social Institution? Denominational Clubs—are they Helpful or Hurtful? How Render the Second Service more Efficient? Is one Preaching Service Sufficient? Should a Minister be a Mason? Denominational Federation in Missionary Fields and in Sparsely Settled Neighborhoods; Do Mission Chapels Pay? Should Ministers Preach Prohibition?

Pulpit Prayers.

PASTORS are apt to run in ruts in their pulpit prayers. They need to give earnest thought and special preparation for this part of the service as much as any other. It will not do to say that because we have the promise of the Holy Spirit to indict our prayers, therefore we should not have any particular thought beforehand what we

shall pray for. As well might we say that because the Spirit will specially help us when we attempt to preach, therefore we need not think out our sermons before we preach them. The Spirit works and helps in our preparations for the pulpit. He does not favor our running into the loosest commonplace either in sermon or in prayer. He does not bless shiftlessness nor slovenliness. All pastors should make special preparation for their pulpit prayers. Let them pray for power of utterance in the pulpit before going there, and let them prayerfully think of some of the main objects for which they should pray. Don't confine your prayers to your own people. Widen the scope and include various branches of Christian work abroad. Pray for missions, tract societies, temperance societies, educational institutions, and the Christian press. I have frequently read Dr. Joseph Parker's printed prayers to give me freshness and turn me out of customary drifts. Try this.

C. H. WETHERBE.

My Way!

My way is as follows: Early in the week, while I have much time and when my mind is active and keen in thought analysis, I select the text and think out the outline of the future sermon. Then I write this outline, noting carefully the leading thoughts, the lines of argument, and the proof-texts, studying here to show myself "a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." I lay this outline aside with other similar outlines, and then in my reading and thinking and observing, when I light upon anything that will help me, I interline it where it should properly come. When time and circumstances are favorable, this sermon, which has thus been in gestation for some time, is carefully studied and written out *in extenso* and preached.

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