

doctrine whereunto thou hast attained." "But thou O man of God flee these things; and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness. Fight the good fight of faith; lay hold on eternal life whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses." "I give thee charge in the sight of God who judgeth all things and before Jesus Christ, who, before Pontius Pilate witnessed a good confession, that thou keep this commandment without spot, unrebukable, until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ." "Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. I charge thee therefore before God and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and Kingdom,—Preach the word; be instant in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine." "Watch thou in all things; endure afflictions: do the work of an Evangelist,—make full proof of thy Ministry." In order, therefore, to effectiveness in the Ministry, you must be a diligent student of Holy Scripture. Let this be the business of your life. It is a vast field for research—it is an exhaustless mine of spiritual wealth—to make acquisitions from which will prove the best preparation for your public teaching. You will, of course, avail yourself of the aid which the advance of sacred criticism and literature has supplied for the more accurate study of the holy writings. To ascertain what the Scriptures really teach, the very mind of the Holy Spirit who indited them, is the primary and essential part of "taking heed unto the doctrine." This is the true way to become a well-read theologian—a scribe well furnished in the Law of the Lord. It is proper that you should be acquainted with those systems of Divinity which great and good men have penned; indeed your knowledge of these things cannot be too varied or extensive, but be admonished to refuse to be trammelled by human systems however excellent, draw your sentiments from the only infallible source, the Bible. It is unwise to be content with streams which have suffered some mingling, when we have the pure and exhaustless fountain. We may profitably use the former, but we cannot do without the latter. Whatever else we lack, let us not be wanting in reverence for the fulness and authority of the Bible.

You will find it of great advantage to your ministry to meddle with other departments of knowledge besides those which are strictly religious. The *study of man* is of essential moment, and of the classes of men particularly with whom you have to deal. Cultivate habits of careful observation and experience; but as these utterly fail to teach some persons who remain dulness itself in regard to all that concerns the knowledge of mankind, we may be permitted to commend the matter to your earnest attention. See to it, my brother, that you are ever learning facts and lessons in this school. The minister of Christ should be possessed of a general acquaintance with most subjects of a speculative or practical value, and should keep himself informed of the history of the present times; the state of our contemporary generation. Such a course is needful to the character of an intelligent man; withal, it supplies to the teacher of religion an endless variety of illustrations, which are not only useful in opening up the truth, but which tend to impress it upon the minds of the people. Eschew the noisy and flash-making in your style. Do nothing for the mere sake of popularity. It never wears. For a season it looks well, the crowd stare and applaud; but no respect or influence is gained, and even the noise soon passes away. We are in favor of earnestness, and even grace of manner. Speak in the best possible way; but do nothing for show. We must speak to command attention. You know the story of Demosthenes. If he thus properly labored to acquire that wonderful power for secular objects; ought not we to toil yet more earnestly for a power for the furtherance of the spiritual interests of men. If attention is to be kept awake there must be *directness* in your manner of conveying truth. Everything must appear to be subordinate, and must, in fact, be subordinate to the one great end of enlightenment and impression. Remember that the Holy Spirit converts human souls from the error of their ways only by means of Divine truth, and that by the same instrument he sanctifies saints. Remember too, and let the impression on this point be thorough, that His convicting influences mostly attend an adapted ministration of the Word. Those preachers are ever most successful