

ship with all her sails set, and her head pointing to the desired haven, but the under current of the stream in which she moved was too strong for the wind, and carried her out toward the open sea. So we may spread the sails of our ministerial effort to bring men to Christ, but the under current of our living influence may be too strong for it all, and may bear them out to the troubled waters of the world, there to make shipwreck of the faith. Strive my brother, by a sincere, consistent, eminent piety, to enforce in your life, the saving truth you proclaim, and thus make full proof of your ministry. It is a weighty observation of Andrew Fuller, "Our want of usefulness is much oftener to be ascribed to our want of spirituality, than to any want of natural ability."

2. Make full proof of your ministry, by *preaching* "Christ crucified, the power of God to salvation." I have no fear that I need to guard you against preaching what has been fitly styled, a "negative theology," so much in vogue in some quarters among us. I require not to tell you, that under a show of philosophic thought, and earnest sympathy with man, it lacks the depth of the well of the pure truth, and meets not the highest wants of our moral nature. The entire system is based on the annihilation of the penalty of God's law, and on the fatal error of supposing Christ's work to consist rather in a manifestation of sympathy with sinners by His incarnation, than an offering of Himself as a sacrifice for their sins on the cross. And how worthless a remedy for fallen humanity must this theory be, that robs God's name of the glory of His righteousness, and takes from man's conscience the blood of sprinkling, its sole and sovereign balm. My brother, in opposition to this, as well as to every other form of error, preach faithfully, preach fully, preach alone, Christ "crucified." Stand close to Him on the cross, see nothing but Him, feel that all your power comes directly from Him. Speak not merely the truth *about* Him, but point your hearers *to* Him, as a living person,—the strong, the loving Son of God, their own willing, their Almighty Saviour. Preach His incarnation, the great mystery of godliness, His life the perfect example of obedience, His death the infinite atonement for sin, His intercession the only ground of hope, His presence at God's right hand the pledge of immortality to all believers. Preach this glorious truth of a living Saviour, in all its relations, in all its parts, in all its adaptations. Preach it as revealing doctrine and duty, precept and promise, offer and obligation, principle and practice. This breadth of gospel preaching is the more necessary, that many complain there is a want of adaptation in the pulpit to the wants of the present age. In very many cases, I believe this is a hollow and vapid complaint. It comes from persons who are ever prating about "inaugurating a new period," about "interpreting the age," about "its grand mission," about the "coming man," and who seem to think they are so near the millennium of philosophy, that they can dispense with everything peculiar to the gospel. Were the complaint these men make, meant to