

know Jesus. He knew the power of Christ's cross. He counted all things as loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus, his Lord, for whom he suffered the loss of all things; and so valuable was Christ in his estimation, that he regarded himself as an unspeakable gainer in giving up all for his sake.

The plain inference from this is—indeed it is not an inference, it is stating the same thing in another way—that a minister should be a *converted* man. If he is not, it is the blind leading the blind. It is important that he be properly educated; it may be important that he be eloquent; but that he be converted is indispensable. Alas! it is to be feared that many undertake the duties of this solemn office who are strangers to the power of the cross, whatever they may have got from the schools. This we regard as one reason why there is so much merely nominal Christianity in christendom.

O minister of Christ, be a man of piety and prayer. Like Paul, let the mind that was in Jesus, with respect to the souls of men, be in you. In seeking men's reconciliation to God, be determined to preach Christ and him crucified. Have confidence in God; and in the Gospel, as God's appointed instrument, for converting men—the moral implement which he wishes you to use in cultivating the field of the world. Live near the cross; imbibe the spirit which Christ manifested, in his death on the cross, for sinners. Preach the cross. Hide yourself behind it in all your ministrations. Thus will you truly be a co-worker with the divine Spirit; who takes of the things of Jesus, and shows them unto men; in turning them from sin to righteousness; from the world to God; and from hell to heaven. A.

REASONS WHY CHRIST AND HIM CRUCIFIED SHOULD BE THE THEME OF THE PREACHING OF THE HERALDS OF THE GOSPEL.

1. Ministers should unflinchingly and constantly exhibit the cross, because *Christ and him crucified afford the truest and brightest exhibition of the character of God on which men can gaze.*

One important branch of the minister's duty is to make God known. Zion is exhorted to lift up her voice with strength, to have no fear, and to say unto the cities of Judah, "Behold your God." Paul recognized this as his mission to the men at Athens.