

ambassadors for Christ." This is surely an influential vocation. Eternal issues depend upon the manner in which it is fulfilled. "For we are a sweet savour of Christ unto God, in them that are being saved, and in them that are perishing; to the one a savour from death unto death; and to the other a savour from life unto life. And who is sufficient for these things?" (2 Cor. ii., 15-16.)

As pastor of this church you come into close touch with the members at a most solemn and decisive moment in their experience, the moment when they make open confession of Christ and unite in the fellowship of the saints. Suffer me to say that you should, in your capacity as Pastor, resist to the utmost everything that would impair the true Christian character and spiritual purity of that fellowship. It is no gain but unmitigated loss to receive dead members into the church. She has in all ages suffered grievously in this way. Along with the elders associated with you in the oversight of the flock, guard wisely and firmly against the temptation to swell the number on the roll regardless of credible evidence of their having been born again.

Those who are not thus quickened cannot be expected to obey the precepts of Christ, and they weaken and chill the life of the body into which they are introduced. They will diminish your influence and that of the church for good. It is only those who are temples of the Holy Ghost, who are not merely formal, but real Christians, that will extend and perpetuate the spiritual forces you desire to diffuse.

Cherish therefore a constant conviction of the grave and the unique responsibility and opportunity you have in this respect. It is placed within your reach in serving Christ in this matter to exert a salutary influence throughout this whole province and far beyond its limits. Do you ask me how? I answer by reminding you that for several years past there have been annually added from twenty to thirty persons to the membership of this church. This is a matter for gratitude and thanks to God. Comparatively large congregations are sometimes not so highly favoured. May we not hope in view of the progress of intelligence and steady diffusion of the