

other men acquainted with him. He that can tell men what God has done for his own soul, is the likeliest to bring their souls to God; hardly can he speak to the heart who speaks not from it; again, how can a frozen hearted preacher warm his hearers' hearts, and enkindle them with the love of God? But he whom the love of Christ constrains, his lively recommendations of Christ, and speeches of love, shall sweetly constrain others to love him. Above all loves, it is most true of this, that none can speak sensible of it, but those that have felt it." There is a great danger, my Reverend Brethren, that from constant habit of speaking and preaching upon divine subjects, our own personal religion may be neglected, that we may be tempted to rest satisfied with what has been well called, "a professional piety." Often the minister who appears warm and energetic in the pulpit is cold and formal in his private devotions. This should be guarded against, we should endeavour to maintain communion with God, in the reading of His word, in meditation upon it and in prayer, that so we may speak out of the abundance of the heart, when we undertake to fulfil the office of Messengers of Christ. The words of Archbishop Leighton, upon this point also, are most valuable: "Upright, meek, humble, and heavenly minds, then, must the Ambassadors of this great King have, and so obtain His intimacy; mounting upon those wings of prayer and meditation, and having the eye of faith upwards. Thus shall they learn more of His choicest mysteries in one hour, than by many days poring upon casuists, school-men and such like. This ought to be done, I confess, but above all the other must not be omitted. Their chief study should be that of their commission, the Holy Scriptures; the way to speak skilfully from God is often to hear him speak." But we are also Watchmen, and in the discharge of this duty we are to be faithful, placing before men their danger, their ruined and lost state by nature, and warning them to flee from the wrath to come. We are to use great plainness of speech, testifying to all