

Gospel preaching. But beware of fanciful interpretations and senseless spiritualizing. (g) Don't be afraid of "hackneyed" texts. The old familiar text, preached with your new verification of it, will come home even to your oldest hearers with freshness and power. Be it far from you to display your smartness in the choice of some eccentric phrase, wrested from its contents, and made a peg, on which to hang your own ideas. You are a messenger of the King, not a leader-writer for an evening newspaper.

You will naturally be on the outlook for helps in preparing your addresses. The foundation of your work must be a scholarly study of the Bible itself. Use all the apparatus you happen to possess, or have access to. The Expositors' Greek Testament will keep you in the lines of sober and accurate exegesis; and you can consult the great masters, Lightfoot, Westcott, Godet, and others, as you have opportunity. And, I hope, you are not so young as to despise older writers like Matthew Henry. The Expositors' Bible contains a mingled freight, but you will find in it some fine and helpful volumes, especially those of Dods, and MacLaren, and G. A. Smith, and Rainy.

I would have you study the great masters of evangelistic preaching. You will be surprised to find a great deal of direct evangelism in writers not usually regarded as evangelistic, or even evangelical.

The burning earnestness of F. W. Robertson,