

"OLD-FASHIONED PREACHING."

Some writers for religious journals seem to have a fondness for hobbies. Men seem to love crotchets. The harpers keep harping with their harps.

Of late we have had a goodly number of articles and essays in the different church papers on modern, popular, fashionable and sensational preaching. The changes have been many on these words, and the wish expressed that we might have again "old-fashioned preaching."

It may be well for us to look carefully into this matter. Do those who so loudly ask for "old-fashioned preaching," speak of manner or matter? Do they wish to be understood as implying that the matter is unscriptural, or the manner unbecoming?

What gives such a world-wide notoriety to some of our divines? Is it the fact that they do not preach the truth? or is it the manner in which they present that truth?

I wish our pulpits were full of such men. We need in our pulpits eloquence, oratory, earnestness, and the vivid flashings of sanctified genius.

In order to have "old-fashioned preaching," is it necessary that a man be dull, dry, formal, tame, cold, emotionless, distant and stupid? Look into many of our churches. The herald talks and the hearer sleeps.

Let any man give us the reason why, when the Scriptures are read so much, memory retains so little, the quotations are so blundering and incorrect, if the reason is not found in the fact of hasty reading of the Word of God.

Read your Bible slowly. Take time, even if you have but little time. A great mathematician once said, if his life depended upon solving a problem in two minutes, he would spend one of the two in deciding how to do it.

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