

piety, as eminent or otherwise. Enlightened, growing, personal religion will furnish a Minister's mind with a specific aim. He will "watch for souls as one who must give account." He will be a diligent student of Scripture that he may rightly divide the word of truth. He will be a man of prayer for the illuminating influences of the Holy Spirit. He will appear before all as a man of perfect sincerity. He may have, or may not have, great mental powers; but he will have what will accomplish more good—perfect sincerity. An affectionate earnestness will characterize his ministry, and his private instructions to his flock. He will acquire great boldness; yet equally great humility. A heart alive to his work will help to give him true eloquence, the eloquence of nature, kindled into earnestness by the love of souls, and made to burn with the fire taken from the altar of God. He will not leave men to perish in their sins without great and preserving effort to save them. He will practically understand the meaning of that wonderful statement, "Wherefore I take you to record this day, that I am pure from the blood of all men.—For I have not shunned to declare unto you all the counsel of God. Therefore watch, and remember, that by the space of three years I ceased not to warn every one, night and day, with tears." O for this earnestness of a seraph, and zeal of a martyr! I would fain linger on this part of the Apostle's injunction, for in its bearings, direct and remote, it includes your entire course. You can be personally sustained amid the trials of your office and work, only by the faith and hope, and prayerfulness of an eminent piety. God's promises are great and precious; they are yea and amen in Christ Jesus. But Divine Sovereignty is discriminating in the bestowment of his favors, and the rule is to aid, to comfort, and to bless the man of eminent piety. All the history of the church bears out this construction of the Divine rule. Who have been the happiest and most successful ministers of Christ! have they not been the men of the most enlightened and practical godliness combined with such fervour and such adaptedness of labour as such piety must necessarily foster? I am thus led to the second point before us:

II.—TAKE HEED UNTO THE DOCTRINE.

The idea of this part of the injunction plainly is—Seek to be an effective preacher. And in other parts of the Epistle, Paul explains what he means thereby. We may classify his remarks under two heads—furniture, and its use,—preparation for effective teaching and the use of what is prepared in the active labors of the Ministry.

1st. Preparation.—Listen to his injunctions—"Till I come, give attendance to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine. Neglect not the gift that is in thee. Meditate upon these things; give thyself wholly to them,—that thy profiting may appear unto all." "Wherefore I put thee in remembrance, that thou stir up the gift of God which is in thee by the putting on of my hands." "Hold fast the form of sound words, which thou hast heard of me, in faith and love which is in Christ Jesus. That good thing which was committed unto thee keep by the Holy Ghost which dwelleth in us." "But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned, and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them; and that from a child thou hast known the holy Scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation." Obedience to these injunctions supposes diligence in study—earnest thoughtfulness and careful preparation for the pulpit. Your hearers consist of two classes—those who read and think, and are constantly forming opinions; and those whose tastes or engagements, or both, prevent such a course. Now, if you are to teach the first class, your diligent preparation is needed that you may not be behind them. In order to their respect, the Ministry must be intelligent. If you are to improve the second class, as they depend upon you for intellectual as well as spiritual supplies, your diligent preparation is required that they may be fed and trained.

2nd. Actual Labor.—How earnest Paul's precepts. "This charge I commit unto thee son Timothy according to the prophecies which went before on thee, that thou by them mightest war a good warfare; holding faith and a good conscience." "If thou put the brethren in remembrance of these things, thou shalt be a good minister of Jesus Christ, nourished up in the words of faith and of good