

moving on in their thought. They are out of sympathy with their ever fluctuating environment, and they are preaching for the past, not for the present. Hence they are not appreciated as they sincerely think they deserve, and they find fault with their congregations, while they themselves are to blame for not discerning that they are not keeping step with the march of the world's thought and life. I would impress on you this fact that when you go into the active ministry of the word, you must, if you would make the most of your privileges, be untiring in your study of the freshest thought of the time, and ever keeping abreast of the great movements that are affecting individual and social life. The preacher ought to be a seer, a prophet, perceiving the present needs of men, and shaping his message according to the requirements of this generation.

Now, to keep up with the progress of the best thought of your day, and at the same time give adequate attention to the practical duties of the ministerial office, you will require to exercise a most rigid economy of your time, and turn to best account the golden moments as they fly, bearing their record into eternity. The complexion of your future will depend largely on the way you employ every hour and minute of every day. Time is one of our most sacred and priceless trusts. Its faithful administration ought to engage your attention at the very outset of your ministry. Every moment should be spent in doing something which will make your life potent for usefulness, and shed lustre on your future. The secret of making the most of it is being strictly methodical in its use. We are filled with amazement at the amount of work done by some men. They accomplish so much, not merely because they seem to possess inexhaustible energy, extraordinary capacity for work, but because they are eminently methodical, and allow not a moment to be wasted, if that can be avoided. Cultivate this unspeakably valuable habit with religious fidelity.

I would add that you must be possessed with the spirit of sacrifice. Every true worker who would leave the world better than he found it must count on making personal sacrifice. Especially have the great spiritual teachers of the race achieved success only through much tribulation. Socrates had to drink the fatal hemlock as the price of enlightening his countrymen with respect to the mysteries of life and the hereafter. Moses suffered the reproaches and the provocations of the people whom he rescued from bondage and to whom he unfolded truths concerning God and righteousness. And to mention only a few names of more modern times—David Brainerd and William Carey, Livingstone and Hannington, John Williams and the two Gordons, who have made moral wastes fruitful and attractive—have achieved their successes through the sacrifice of self. They counted not their life dear unto themselves that they might finish their course with joy. They were filled with the spirit of Him in whose ministry they served, and who gave His life a ransom for many.