

however, speaking merely of literary study, but, in the widest sense of the preparation of heart and mind which keep the minister in touch with God and humanity and enrich the gift he has received. Much added power may result from the cultivation of close social and personal fellowship with the members of the congregation. Their needs are part of the inspiration of the minister.

It is an improvement in spiritual quality and sympathetic insight that we long for in our ministry. We hardly realize the wide difference in efficiency, in spiritual service, between the novice and the expert, between the raw recruit and the trained veteran, between the 'prentice-hand and the master-workman. The minister will not think to find in the meeting-house alone the consecration of heart, the discipline of character, the equipment of mind, the understanding of men, which should come to him through all the avenues of life. The meetings that are before him will be often on his mind, and he will give himself to a prayerful and reverent study of the Bible, seeking to learn therefrom the mind and will of God, as the Holy Spirit enlightens his understanding and unfolds to him the meaning of the inspired message. As he devotes every faculty to the service of Christ, his reading of the thoughts of the great teachers of every age, his contact with the passing events and vitalizing ideas of the day will become to him vocal with spiritual instruction, which he can use in ministry to others. Thus will he gain insight to speak with faithfulness and acceptance to the condition of men's hearts, and will win fuller understanding of the Divine purposes of redemption and grace involved in the central theme of all effective ministry, "Jesus Christ, and Him crucified."

THE MINISTRY OF THE WHOLE GATHERED CHURCH.

These thoughts, however, have a wider application. Preparation of heart and the active worship of dedicated lives are the duties of all. It is these that make up the spiritual atmosphere of a meeting. We have all a ministry; for we are all members one of another, bound to rise or to fall together; and stronger even than the solidarity of the human race is the solidarity of the gathered Church. We need to say, "I dare not be weak, for my weakness is a spreading infirmity. I must be strong, for my strength is a spreading force. I cannot sit in self-contained isolation, for my brethren need the energy of my love."