

## HOW TO MAKE BIBLE STUDY INTERESTING TO THE PEOPLE.

Do ye not therefore err, *because ye know not* the Scriptures? Such was the question asked by our Lord in the days when the traditions of the Church were being put above the Word of God. History is repeating itself in the present day, and many errors are creeping into our Church because of the ignorance of the Scriptures, which is the *source of error*. If by our exertion we can do anything to make men and women careful students of the Word of God, we shall do far more for church defence than all the organizations for that purpose put together. Coming from a young soldier only setting out to the battle, in the ranks of God's ministers, the words of this paper can scarcely carry the weight of experience, which would come from an older man; but, still, I would invite your attention to what follows, for the principles which will be put forward will be in accordance with what others have tried and found successful, and above all will be in accordance with the Word to which our attention is to be directed.

Apart also from its importance the subject of the present paper is one of intense practical interest to those who are called to be ministers of God's Word, to those to whom has been publicly committed the authority to preach the Word of God in the well-known words of our Ordinal. It has been said of the Bible that there is probably no book in the world more *read* and less *studied* than the book of God, and even of those who are called ministers probably a very small percentage have any real *method* in the study of the book which they have to teach. A comparison of the methods employed by the average man with those employed by the leaders in the ranks of what may justly be termed a science will at once convince us, that the majority of us fall very far short of what should be expected of those who are considering the question before us, how to interest the people in the study of the Bible? It is almost a truism to remark that *he who would interest others must first be interested himself*. If we would inspire others with enthusiasm we must first be fired by a burning zeal ourselves. If we would make others students we must do so at the expense of much study ourselves, and in consequence much weariness to the flesh. Any one who has any experience of teaching will know that, however dry the subject may be, however oft repeated the skeleton of the lesson, that the personality of the pupil and the intercourse of mind with mind will lend life to the lifeless bones, and clothe them afresh each day with flesh and blood. If this is so in the matters of every day teaching of the merest elements,