

tion therefore given to such persons only hardens them, and we are very much tempted to abandon the unprofitable task, and to cease to utter warnings, which only tend to increase their condemnation. There may be cases in which, guided by the dictates of prudence, we may thus act with propriety, still we must beware lest we thus give up those whom God has not given up. The responsibility must rest upon those who refuse to hearken. If we have given warning, we have delivered our own souls, and it is our burthen that to some we are to be "the savor of death" while we desire to be to all "the savor of life," but if we have neglected to give and to reiterate the warning we incur guilt.

And generally we may assume as an axiom, that it is our duty to lay most stress upon those particulars which our people are least inclined to receive. Our inclination is naturally to find out, on the one hand, what is most agreeable, that we may present it to them, and on the other hand what is least acceptable, in order that we may keep it in the back ground; but our action ought to be reversed. A man may make himself very popular by giving them what exactly coincides with their own notions, for this is doubly pleasant to the hearers, since the word thus spoken is grateful to their ears, while they are elevated in their own estimation by the feeling, that their opinions are just what they ought to be, that they are themselves examples of sound doctrine. But I do not hesitate to repeat what I said to you eight years ago, and I would especially request my younger brethren to observe *this*, that no man who is in *all* respects faithful will be popular. A superficial observer might suppose that some of the most popular men are also the most faithful, but this cannot be while human nature continues to be what it is. If we are guided by the word of God, we must admit that "the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God," that "the carnal mind is enmity against God," that men naturally "love darkness rather than light," and fear to come to the light. You may, by a straight-forward earnest and faithful discharge of your duty towards God and man, compel the approval of the multitude, but you will not be popular in the common acceptation of the word, unless you are willing to sacrifice truth for the sake of popularity, abstaining from reproof, and keeping back what they are not disposed to hear.