

teacher cultivates a growing enthusiasm of Bible study, so as actually to know its facts, doctrines, spirit and purpose, then the Lord Jesus Christ will be his charm and power, and his loftiest and purest ambition will be to have his scholars hear, from his own fervent lips, the "wonderful words of life," which alone convince of sin and lead to salvation.

In his recent sermon before the graduating class of the Theological Seminary at Princeton, President Patton said: "We have now a new Christianity containing sentimentality and sociology in almost equal proportions." But why should anything else be expected but this legitimate offspring from men now preaching in our pulpits, now teaching in our Sabbath Schools, and now giving instruction in our institutions of sacred learning, who substitute for The Book some other book? The Christianity of God can only hold its place when The Book of God holds its place. Therefore, to know this Book is the first requisite of every one who, in speaking for God, would not misrepresent God.

In the next place, the Sabbath School teacher should know The Book in that special portion set apart for the weekly lesson. As its never-dying verses contain a message of eternal life for souls, the teacher should not spend the time on dates, authorship, geography, history, or things external, but in getting hold of the hidden things of the Gospel—the saving truth of God's Word, the life-giving food for the soul. As the message consists in this and nothing else, it is the teacher's great responsibility to possess himself of this message, the spiritual substance contained in the lesson. He must have this truth clear in his own mind; must have an experience of it in his heart; must hold it in deep conviction as a great spiritual reality; and must be able to give the message to his class, not with the eloquence and demonstration of a lecturer or a preacher, but quietly, earnestly, and clearly, as a teacher, always speaking in the spirit of a loving friend.

Allow me to accent this last thought, that the message of love and truth is for the class,

that the clear, definite knowledge of the lesson must be possessed as a means to an end: the salvation of souls. A man may have his gun loaded all right, yet, in shooting, aim at nothing. The glory of Admiral Sampson's gunners was that they struck every time, and drove the battle-ships of the foe to smash. The only "smash" some teachers and preachers make is that of precious time and opportunity. It is one thing to have shot in the gun, and another thing to aim at and hit the target. The teacher must make his class the objective point. He must unfold the lesson with power, simplicity, and adaptability to the young mind and heart. To teach religion to the young is the only purpose for which the Sabbath School exists. The teacher who cannot, or who does not, teach the religion of free grace to the hearts of his scholars has no right to be a teacher. God requires this one thing from him; so does the Church; and so do the immortal souls under his care. As a teacher his knowledge of The Book is for salvation purposes. Hence the work of a Sabbath School teacher is most difficult, taxing his ability to study, his spiritual discernment, his steadfast hope, and noblest ambition.

A word in conclusion. With his heart right toward God, and with an earnest desire to know God's Book, the Sabbath School teacher needs but one thing more to come up to the full measure of his glorious work. It is the baptism of the Holy Spirit. He who would be an exponent of religion to others must have two things: (1) a vision of truth, (2) ability to express the vision. The Holy Ghost is given to the Sabbath School teacher to accomplish in him these two things—to see the Gospel with clear eye, and express the Gospel in clear words.

These were the things that made Peter a rock; John, a son of thunder; Apollos, an eloquent man and "mighty in the Scriptures"; and Paul, the greatest of the apostles. They will also work something of the same graces in ourselves, who are honestly seeking to know The Book and to teach it to others.

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