

Christ and Him crucified." The old truths may be made very fresh and new. Out of the messenger's treasury, things new and old may ever be brought. It matters little about the originality, so long as the preacher is sincere. And the great preachers have left no doubt in our minds about the power of the old Gospel to lift men out of sin into Christ, for they preached the old story simply and sincerely, thinking only of the message and nothing whatever of the messenger.

And another thing that adds to the preacher's difficulty to-day is the crowding of the pulpit. There was a time, before the arrival of the Sunday newspaper, when people would sit on a hot Sunday morning and hear the sermon of an hour's length, but now it must fall inside of twenty minutes and be particularly fine, too, if it is to hold attention! The preacher is obliged to combat forces or compete with rivals of which our grandfathers knew nothing. Books are tremendously increasing, magazines are piling about us and these are usurping the messenger's place and trying to deliver the message.

A thousand acres of forest are cut down every week to provide endless rolls of paper upon which to print the Sunday editions of our papers—and I would rather have the forest! But all these are making the task of the preacher more difficult. Do you understand the agony and battle and temptation, to which every week he is subjected as he tries to be faithful to his Lord and deliver the message whole and unadulterated?

And have the people no duty to the messenger? "Go, show yourselves to the priest" and by your readiness to "hear, mark, learn and inwardly digest" the message, make his labours a little more worth while. Not in any spirit of carping criticism, not thinking more of the form of words than of the message