

THE HOMILETIC REVIEW.

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REVIEW SECTION.

I.—THE PREACHER AND THE PREACHING FOR THE PRESENT CRISIS.

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2.—THE PREACHER'S MESSAGE.

I. *The Relations of Preaching to Reform.*—What, in view of the present pressing requirement of his commission, is to be the preacher's message? What must it be in view of the great crisis of the hour? We answer:

Bible Christianity as a saving power for the sinner and for the world.

The preacher's one essential message, under his commission, is the message of *salvation*: "Preach the Gospel to every creature." Christianity is essentially distinguished from all other religions by being the religion of *salvation*. It has undoubtedly furnished the source and inspiration of all that is highest and best in character and conduct, art and literature, culture and civilization, but all that has been merely incidental and secondary to its main purpose of saving men. The angel said to Joseph: "Thou shalt call his name Jesus: for He shall save His people from their sins." Christ defined His own mission when He said: "The Son of Man is come to save that which was lost." Paul expressed it when he wrote: "Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners." The cry of a human soul, when brought to a sense of its true condition, is voiced in the anxious and despairing question of the jailer of Philippi: "What must I do to be saved?" The Bible everywhere bases the whole Gospel system on the lost and helpless condition of the race—sometimes assuming or presupposing it; sometimes emphatically and dogmatically proclaiming it, and again proceeding with irresistible logic to demonstrate it. In short, sin and death, salvation and life, constitute the marrow of Bible divinity; and, outside of and apart from these the Scriptures have no message that has any great and paramount interest for a human soul. The