

classes and conditions of men, whether saint or sinner, infidel or christian. This is our fourth, and must be our last chapter of remarks upon preachers. Here we have much to say; but we must condense and study brevity, lest we should write more than will be read—an error into which both poets and prose-writers frequently fall in these days of keeping pace with steam, rail-car, and telegraph.

One very marked trait in every preacher should be the spirit of self-sacrifice—a strong, manly, bold inclination to spend and be spent in the cause of the Master, with his heart and his eye upon a reward most sure when human applause and bank bills shall be no more. A preacher, when he solemnly vows before God and before his brethren, that he enters the field as a laborer for the Divine Master, should remember that a cold and heartless world crucified the Lord of Glory, persecuted and put to death the Apostles, martyred whole armies of saints, imprisoned and starved the best men in the church, and that all who have rebuked the world and faithfully pled for reformation, have been compelled to suffer more or less, like the great Captain himself. No man, therefore, is worthy of the name of a preacher who is not willing to take his place among these sufferers, and prove himself a religious hero—a self-denying servant of the Faithful and True Witness. And having made up his mind “to suffer with the people of God,” and even more than some of God’s people, he should not permit himself to become a complainer—no, nor a boaster of his sufferings. The moment a preacher either complains or makes a boast of his sacrifices, he robs himself before God and man of any merit there might be in his self-denial. For in the one case every reflecting person must see that he regrets that he was self-denying, and in the other he takes occasion to make it only subservient to his vanity.

Some, indeed, complain in most sorrowful words that their brethren are narrow-minded, illiberal, and penurious in supporting them, or in rendering assistance to any who plead for Jesus. It may be all true—it may be more than true—we shall see, perhaps when we get our pen off the preachers; but in the meantime it must be seen that if we lack self-denying and self-sacrificing preachers, we cannot look for noble, liberal, free-hearted brethren. Let preachers “launch out into the deep”—let them labor and encounter trials after the primitive fashion—let them show that they are true ministers of Jesus Christ—and “in due time they will reap if they faint not”, even of the “carnal things” necessary for the maintenance of “this tabernacle.”