

this. From every quarter, in a thousand insidious ways, tickling our fancy and blinding us to the truth, comes the suggestion to thrust ourselves forward and attract attention, and receive the homage of men. And no temptation, perhaps, is stronger than that which may come from the congregation over which a man is set. Remember the conduit is not the water that flows through it; the sign post is not the destination of the weary traveller. He who drinks the cool crystal water, never thinks of the hidden conduit through which it flowed, nor does the traveller hastening to his goal think of the finger-post that set him right. These did their work, and in their work lay all their importance. Christianity tells us of One who is a wondrous light that can dispel the darkness of sin, and of a fountain of living waters where the fever and thirst of life are cured. The sole purpose of the Christian ministry is to point men to that Light, and to bring them to that Fountain. They have nothing of their own to offer. Human talent however great cannot save a soul. To attract attention to themselves is to act the part of those wreckers who used to kindle fires that seemed to announce a friendly haven, but really lured the ships on to the rocks. "They are not that Light, but are sent to bear witness of that Light." That alone is the true Light of the world. The first duty of the true minister of Christ is to forget his little self—to lose it utterly from sight in the brightness of Christ's ineffable light. Such lives are not forgotten. They are hid with Christ in God. Let them lie hidden there forever and may the glory of Christ's Person become the only beacon to guide the footsteps of men.

After the conquest of self, the first great duty of a minister of Christ is testimony. "The same came for a witness" says the apostle, but the words in the original really are "the same came for testimony." All the active work of the ministry may be summed up in that word "testimony." To bear witness forever and everywhere, by word, and deed, and life, to the might, the love, the wisdom, the goodness of Christ and the power of His cross. That is what St. Paul meant by preaching Christ Jesus and Him crucified. May they who are here ordained, constantly remember that. I know of no power that I possess in myself to aid another. I cannot minister

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