

time when the original manuscripts were written, of disputing the authenticity of the human writer or of spending overmuch time in describing the geography and topography of different places and countries. It sometimes holds forth a one-sided, unscriptural moral and philanthropic Christianity, in which the sinfulness of sin is minimized and sinners are regarded merely as "absent-minded beggars" guilty of indiscretion.

It may assume another form, and contend that there is a germ of good in embryo in every man, which if cultivated and developed and surrounded by the proper environment, will eventually produce a character worthy our admiration and acceptable to God. It varies in style, but frequently leans towards that of the essayist. It is usually barren of spiritual results, because it is of man.

The Word should be taught as Christ and the apostles taught, and as pointed out by the Scriptures themselves, under the influence and power of the Holy Spirit. "I have given them the words which thou gavest me," was Christ's assertion. The speaker should be a channel through which the message flows. A careful and prayerful study of the Acts of the Apostles is an indispensable preparation for the great work of teaching. This book is a proper sequel to the Gospels that precede it, and in it we can trace the continuance of our Saviour's teaching and working and the active ministry of the Third Person of the Trinity through His witnesses. In it also we can note what the subject matter of successful teaching of the Word was. There was no leaving unsaid truths unpalatable to the natural man. The sinfulness of man by nature and practice and his inability to recover himself, and the truth that unsaved persons are in a lost condition now (not *being* lost) were unflinchingly proclaimed. The great doctrines of regeneration, justification, adoption and sanctification, the authority of Holy Scripture, the certainty of judgment and the second coming of Christ, were all taught in the face of bitter opposition, with marked boldness and intrepidity.

Numerous examples of successful teachers of the Bible can be adduced. The apostle Peter, the apostle Paul, George Whitfield, Thomas Boston, Jonathan Edwards, Charles Finney, Charles Spurgeon and D. L. Moody, were all men in whom fidelity and loyalty to the use of the words of the Bible were prominent characteristics. Peter stands forth conspicuously in this respect. In his sermon recorded in Acts, second chapter, he appealed to inspired prophecy by quoting Joel and one of the Psalms, and without intellectual or literary display gave a simple, straightforward appeal that carried conviction to thousands. These men explained and illustrated Scripture by Scripture and gave the people the very words of the Bible, with full persuasion and assurance of the infallible truth and its divine authority. Further, the Scriptures show that it is by the Word we are born again (1 Peter 1 : 23), by the Word we grow (1 Peter 2 : 2), by the Word we are built up (Acts 20 : 32), by the Word we are sanctified and cleansed, (Eph. 5 : 26), by the Word we are defended (Eph. 6 : 17), and by the Word that the thoughts and intents of the heart are discerned (Heb. 4 : 12). The mind should be stored with verses of Scripture.

All students of the Bible encounter difficulties in their studies, and forgetting the fact that it gives us no intimation that we need to go outside for help to understand it, go at once to the commentaries. No one should despise Bible helps. Many of them are invaluable. They should, however, come last in preparation. The first place should be given to the Bible itself as its own interpreter. "God is His own interpreter, and He will make it plain." Again some individuals are susceptible to human opinion and fear that by following this method of teaching they will lose popularity and with it their influence for good. Such has not been the case in the past, as many of the most beloved teachers of to-day use the sword of the Spirit with telling effect and continue to hold the respect and veneration of their listeners. In any case it is better to be popular with God than with men.