

his hearers by delivering orations to them on religious subjects, and drawing his reasonings from any, and every source, save the Bible. "The prophet that hath a dream, let him tell a dream: and he that hath my word, let him speak my word faithfully: What is the chaff to the wheat? saith the Lord. Is not my word like as a fire? saith the Lord; and like a hammer that breaketh the rock in pieces?"—Jeremiah xxiii. 28, 29.

The author regards all preaching as shooting beside the mark that does not come up to the example of Ezra and the priests, in the days of Nehemiah, of whom it is said, "So they read in the book of the law of God distinctly, and gave the sense, and caused the people to understand the reading:" and that does not ever resemble the apostolic method of preaching, stated by Paul, in these words, "Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual."—1 Cor. ii. 13. How far the author has kept these models in view, he leaves his readers to judge. He may state, however, that he has endeavoured, to the best of his ability, to give the sense of every passage he has taken for a text, and to support his reasonings thereon by direct proofs from the Word of God. He has aimed, in these discourses, to show what God requires his people to be, to enjoy, and to do: and, therefore, he has bestowed more pains than some may imagine needful, in showing what believers must be, and must enjoy, before they can be abundantly useful in the salvation of souls.

As the author's aim is to do good to Christians of all ages and stations, he has introduced many appropriate anecdotes, which he hopes will both illustrate more clearly, and enforce more powerfully the views advocated, than anything he might have advanced.

He now presents this work to the Church of Christ, in the hope that God will make it a blessing to his fellow-Christians, of all denominations, who may peruse it, and that he will own it, to the advancement of His glory—