

charge, many a man, of both learning and ability, has failed in the work of the ministry.

Let us now see how far St. Paul went in this matter of adaptation! In his first epistle to the Corinthians, he says, "Unto the Jews I became as a Jew, that I might gain the Jews, to them that are under the law as under the law. To them that are without law (being not without law to God, but under the law to Christ) that I might gain them that are without law. To the weak, became I as weak, that I might gain the weak. "I am made all things to all men, that I might by all means save some, and this I do for the gospel's sake." Here then is the motive and the reason why he adapted himself to men of all classes. It was that he might save some for the gospel's sake and that means for Christ's sake. He wisely adapted himself to the conditions and circumstances of the people among whom he laboured.

A minister's success depends very much upon a careful imitation of the Apostle in this as in other matters relating to the ministry of the Word. This adaptation will apply to doctrinal truth, as well as to minor matters, concerning social etiquette and things that are not essential to salvation. Some he fed with strong meat, and others with the milk of the Word. To the Corinthians he says, "I could not speak unto you as unto spiritual but unto carnal, even as unto babes in Christ. I have fed you with milk and not with meat, for hitherto ye were not able to bear it, neither yet now are ye able, for ye are carnal." Then afterwards he asks them whether he should come to them with a rod, or in "the spirit of meekness." He only spoke "wisdom to them that were perfect," to them who were advanced in spiritual things, relating to both doctrine and practice. He preached and wrote to the Galatians, Ephesians, Thessalonians and other churches in a very different style, because they were more spiritual and better informed. Sometimes he used "sharpness" and "the rod," never preaching to please men, as is too often the case, we fear, in these degenerate days. For says he, in writing to the Galatians, "Nor do I seek to please men, for if I yet pleased men I should not be the servant of Christ." He doubtless felt that he must keep a good conscience and please Christ, even if by so doing he offended all men. It was his highest ambition to magnify Christ. He had in his congregation Scribes and Pharisees, Sadducees and "disputers." He had proud men, vain men, covetous men, worldly-minded men, and unbelievers to deal with, and these various classes are not all dead yet, they have their representatives amongst us to-day. We have agnostics, materialists and sceptics of almost every form and grade; therefore, like St. Paul, we should prudently adapt the truth we preach to their varied needs, but above and beyond all, preach Christ to them as the only Saviour of men. A wise minister will take the measure of the moral and