

Great Teacher while on earth in the midst of a multitude he is addressing, and suppose that he is attempting to show himself off to advantage before them?—that he is solicitous to speak fine words?—oratorical sentences?—or exhibit a degree of human boldness which may attract men and produce a species of fame?

Would it not be well, on the whole, for preachers in laboring either among saints or sinners, to enquire frequently in their own hearts, 'How would my Lord and Saviour do if he were here?'

But, to pass to the third question, it is the constant and conscientious reflection, uppermost in the mind of preachers, that they are under the ever vigilant eye of the Omnipotent One, and that they will on the Great Day give an account of their responsible stewardship, which operates as the strongest, the best, and the holiest motive in securing faithfulness and christian worth while attempting to "make full proof of their ministry." Even an apostle, inspired as he was, and strong as he felt himself in the power of the truth, watched himself as in the immediate presence of God, lest while being an instrument to convert and save others, he might himself "become a castaway." The man who labours as "seeing Him who is invisible," and constantly reminds himself that the Holy One sees him and takes knowledge of his doings, is divinely fortified against many of the weaknesses and imperfections common to men in the flesh.

For instance, a preacher is about rising to address an assembly, and he lifts up his soul in prayer—'Lord! here am I and this people; I am to speak, they are to hear; but soon both I and they will stand before Thee and render in our account;—help us all to realize that we must soon appear at the Judgment seat.' Would it be possible for preachers with such a solemn sense of the sublime realities of an eternal state, and in view of their accountability before God, to trifle with men's souls and attempt to exhibit their own expertness, learning, dignity, authority, and accomplishments, instead of the salvation which is through our Lord Jesus Christ? The preacher's themes, embracing God, heaven, life, death, transgression, salvation, justice, mercy, God's love, God's wrath, are the most grand and the most solemn topics in the universe; and yet we sometimes find the preacher taking pains to be as witty, funny, and smirky as though all these religious realities were related to the theatre. There is not wanting a specimen of preachers "of the reformation" who think it "smart" to be odd from everybody, and who while discoursing will travel forty-five degrees out of their way to bring in something as comic and mirthful as a scene in "Punch." Some of these men