

a purpose, and work on a plan. You will find that there is a wonderful harmony in your work, if you go about it in a right way. One kind of work will greatly help the other. Your social work, if done for Christ, as it must be if it is done well, will greatly help the spiritual; your visiting will greatly aid your preaching; and your preaching will wonderfully open your way to the homes, and hearts when you visit. Thus, warning every man, and teaching every man, you may hope at last to present every man perfect in Christ.

III. *The expectation that is entertained respecting you.*
"It is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful."

This is a most solemn, and yet encouraging thought. It shows us that God is not a hard Master. That nothing unreasonable is expected of you. That you are not responsible for anything that you do not possess. That you are not expected to make bricks without straw. That God does not expect every man to do the same work, but that every man is called, and qualified, to do a certain work, and that God expects him to do it. That we are not to judge one another, nor measure ourselves by others; but try to do our own work, and leave our fellow-servants to their own Master.

It also shows us that we are not responsible for the results of our work, but for doing that work well. The agricultural labourer is responsible for the ploughing and sowing, but never for the crop; he may be bitterly disappointed at the failure of the harvest, but no one would think of uttering a word of blame. And so with the minister: he may faithfully discharge his duties, and yet have a scanty harvest; but no one would think of censuring him; he has been faithful, and God requires no more. While, however, there is a cheering side to this declaration, it has a teaching full of solemnity. While it shows us that