

pleted work, the burden of your message is, "*Repent and believe the Gospel: Be ye reconciled to God.*"

Our choice of subjects, therefore, is not discretionary; Christ says, "*Teach and preach whatsoever I have commanded you.*" This binds us to our instructions, and rules out of Court many fanciful and ingenious subjects which have found their way into the modern pulpit; and confines the ministry to the strict terms of its commission. As a standing ministry is one of Christ's gifts to his Church, so the work of the ministry has been divinely determined; we are messengers with a specific message, ambassadors with definite instructions to execute lofty and commanding, though limited functions.

To be given to ingenious speculations, starting novel theories, or setting afloat nebulous fancies, may cater to the curiosity and foolish wonder of the restless multitude; but it is no proof of mental activity or special culture; it merely proves the minister to be dealing falsely with his holy trust. To leave the glories of the everlasting hills of Divine Revelation, and descend to the low plane of literary, scientific, or political discussions in the pulpit, is, for the minister, to be shorn of his strength, and to become weak as another man! There is an easy way of making a little cheap capital just now, by pretending to range over a vast and varied field, and discuss a variety of subjects, converting the pulpit into a sort of lecturing bureau. To substitute such themes for the grand doctrines of *sin and grace*, may please the *arab*s, the wandering gipsies who prowl among our congregations, but the attractions of the Cross are alone legitimate to win men. Our theme is the blood which cleanseth from all sin. The range of our preaching is the Word of God, which is the record of his mighty acts, the covenant of his peace which can never be broken,—"*The old story of Jesus and his love.*"

At the present time there is a great cry against *narrowness*; the demand is for breadth and expansiveness; to float with the current of the age. And pulpit teaching, amid such a multiplicity of subjects as engross men's minds, may