

after he is to live in his work, constantly applying himself to reading, study and prayer, to make himself a workman equal to the work demanded of him—surely the class-leader who is to come into close individual contact with the member once a week, should give himself to preparation, notwithstanding it is not required by any given rule or law of the Church for him to pursue a course of study, or stand an examination as to methods, doctrines, or experience. We are practically without the slightest oversight or help from the discipline or pastor, other than good advice which any member may receive. No wonder we are often failures, and the class-meeting not a greater success. Should we not then, in the absence of compulsory preparation and training, betake ourselves to the definite and methodical study of the Scripture, not so much perhaps to be able to give a Bible reading, though good, yet it is not sufficient, but to get the pith and meaning of the Word of Life in all its phases and bearing, so as to be able to apply it, and divide it to each individual case, as the Spirit may direct and empower us. Then, with much earnest, believing prayer for help direct from God, we cannot but realize the presence of Jesus when we assemble, whether there be many or few. Under right conditions, the “many” will be the rule, and the “few” the exception, for a testimony meeting, except it be under the name of class-meeting, seems to be a desirable and enjoyable place for our people; many tell us it is the best part of our prayer-meetings.

A few thoughts, as to methods: First, to be a successful leader the members must be visited. If any leader thinks this too much he had better give up his class, for no one will succeed by going once a week to a given place to meet those who come, and be a help and blessing to them, when he knows but little of them personally. Of necessity, and it is better that it is so, the rich and poor meet together. How can there be unity and a flow of soul, if those who meet do not know each other, not even the leader, beyond a recognition at the time. How can it be expected that such would come and go, and be glad to come again, with a feeling of strangeness existing and, perhaps, thoughts and feelings not so pardonable