

A Sermon
from
2 Corinths IV, 5

For we preach not ourselves, but
Christ Jesus the Lord, & ourselves
your servants for Jesus sake,

We are assembled this day, my
Christian friends on no common or
usual occasion, for no ordinary
purpose. In fact whenever we
meet together in God's House the
occasion ought to be viewed with
sacred & solemn feelings. To worship
God in his sanctuary to offer up our
united prayers & praises, to hear
~~his word, to listen to it as a message~~ ^{his word &} ^{oracles}
~~from on high,~~ ought to raise our
thoughts & desires above the common
affairs of life.

But on the present occasion ~~he~~ is invoked

with the peculiar ~~the~~ sacredness & importance ~~are~~
~~solemnity in our hands~~, for we meet
to witness one of the most interesting &
~~as well as~~ ^{among} the most solemn ceremonies,
or, ~~public~~ ordinances, in connexion
with our Church, well deserving our
revere^{nt} & thoughtful attention, our
prayerful solicitude. our brethren
To set apart any one of ~~our number~~ for
the sacred office of the ~~ministry of our Church~~
ought at any time ^{awaken our Christian} ~~excite & engage~~
~~sympathy~~ ^{sympathy}. But to set apart one who has,
hitherto, officiated in our midst, and
served well & faithfully as a deacon,
to the higher office of a priest, or, pres-
byter, by the laying on of the hands of
the bishop & the presbytery, according to
Apostolic usage, must give ~~an additional~~
~~importance & interest to the occasion~~
^{an unusual} ~~even~~ ought to draw forth the earnest
^{revere} ~~intensity~~ ^{our} ~~earnest~~ ^{interest} & fervent prayers of all who witness it.
When, moreover we call to mind
that this is the first occasion, ~~that~~

to witness
an Vaccination Service ~~will be~~
~~witnessed~~ in this Church, & owing to
the considerate arrangement of our beloved
Bishop, we can scarcely fail to be deeply
impressed with lively ~~and~~ ^{earnest} emotions.
I rejoice at the thought, & congratulate
my beloved Parishioners, that so important
& sacred an ordinance is this day
to be solemnized in our midst.
May our sincere & fervent prayers
ascend to him who, with his manifold
gifts & grace, can alone enable
his servants, to be faithful to their
trust, ~~apt to teach & to preach effectively~~
~~that he may~~ ^{& may he} ~~be~~ ^{be} ~~useful~~ ^{useful} to him who
is about to be ordained ~~such~~ ^{in our} a due
measure of grace & wisdom ~~that~~
he may preach Christ in sincerity
with power for the conversion of sinners
and the edification of his Church & people.
It is not my purpose, ~~on business~~, brethren,
on the present occasion to enter into

any arguments in defence of our Church,
& its several ^{rites and} ~~services~~ ordinances ~~services~~,
or, the three orders of bishops, priests & deacons,
but I ~~cannot~~ ^{however} ~~express~~ ^{I do} ~~not~~ hesitate
to express my conviction, that we imitate,
as nearly as we can, the Apostolic rule
and the ancient usage of the Christian
Church. And this we may reasonably
assert, without advancing an exclusive
claim, as other Protestant Churches,
which are not similarly constituted,
do not form part of the Church of Christ,
so long as they maintain the true faith of
the Gospel.

But we proceed to the examination
of ~~the import~~ of our text, from which
we all, ministers & the congregation,
may derive an instructive lesson.
We who are called to the ministry,
may learn, what ought to be our
character & conduct, what we ought
to teach & to preach, and in what
relation we stand to our hearers;
& ~~the~~ members of the Church; and you,
my dear hearers, will learn,
what is & ought to be the chief
subject of our discourses, and
what you may reasonably expect
of us, who are set over you in the
Lord, as fellow workers with him
and helpers ^{towards your faith} ~~for your steadfastness~~
~~now in the faith and growth in grace.~~

The text naturally divides itself
into three parts. We as ministers
of Christ are taught & admonished
The text points out
to us our
elect, as
preachers
& ministers
in service
& may be
divided
into three
parts.

We are taught
by the Apostle's language & example

- I, Negatively, what we ought not to preach
II, Positively, what ought to be the leading theme
of our preaching.

III, How we are to feel & act towards
the members of the Church ^{among whom we labour} & congregation.

May the Spirit of Truth be graciously
in our midst, & by his influence
& teaching guide & ~~establish~~ us into
all truth, that our hearts may be
established.

- I, No thoughtful man, or, earnest Christian
can fail to discern the sacredness
& responsibility of the Christian ministry.
To have immortal souls committed
to our trust, to be accountable for
their spiritual nurture & guidance,
to admonish, warn, ^{or to} reprove, if need be,
to maintain sound doctrine, to declare
the Truth freely & boldly without fear of
man, ~~to speak to men the whole counsel~~
~~of God with all fidelity, this is a charge,~~

— This is a charge,
dear brethren, which, when seriously con-
templated, might well make us hesitate,
& cause us to exclaim: "Who is suffi-
cient for these things?" The various names
& titles applied to the ministers of
Christ; such as stewards of the mysteries
of God, where above all faithfulness
is required, or, ambassadors for Christ,
who have to speak in his name and
on his authority, or, watchmen on
Zion's walls, ~~all~~ are full of signi-
ficance & betoken our high trust,
our great responsibility.

But let us mark agreeably to our text,
on what the Apostle lays the main
stress, ~~what~~ ^{the} prominence he gives to
preaching, ~~showing~~ ^{showing} us by his own
example, what we ought to avoid,
& ~~what not~~ in preaching & what we
ought ^{mainly} ~~prominently~~ to proclaim.

You will bear in mind, dear brethren,
St Paul writes, ~~not so less~~ in self defence
against false teachers, ~~when he in~~

uttering the words of our text. When em-
bracing himself with them, he might as-
~~toundedly~~ have referred to his various
ministrations, to his zeal and often hazar-
ous efforts, & selfexerting labor, but he simply
mentions, his preaching & the grand theme
on which he constantly dwelt. We have
other & numerous proofs, ~~that he~~ ^{how} prominent
a part, preaching, the preaching of the word
& ~~sound doctrine~~ occupied in the ~~center~~ the
~~St Paul's~~ estimating. How solemnly does

^{great Apostle of the Gentiles}
St Paul, the ~~great~~ ^{great} Timothy, when he says: "I
charge thee, therefore, before God and the
other ^{Apostles} Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the
quick & the dead at his appearing,
& his kingdom: Preach the word:
be instant in season & out of season
reprove, rebuke, exhort.

~~The great Apostle of the Gentiles~~
St Paul knew well that preaching was not only
commanded by Christ but especially
~~exhortation~~ ^{desire} to awaken &
convert sinners, as well as to edify

the Church & strengthen the faith of its members.

In proportion as any Church is alive to her duty & her interest, so there will be earnest & frequent preaching; and in proportion as a Church is lifeless & decaying, or, has departed from the pure Gospel ~~and doctrine~~, preaching will be neglected, or, treated as if of minor importance.

But, then, the question ~~arises~~ may well be asked: What does faithful & effectual preaching really consist in? What is it we have to preach, & to set forth prominently? And what is it we have to avoid, lest our preaching should ~~lose its effect & beauty~~ do either harm than good? Mark brethren, the ~~significant~~ & emphatic language of the Apostle in our text & the caution implicit in it.

"For we preach not ourselves." How different would the Church & the world be now, & how this caution been more generally heeded; how all, who from ~~this~~ time

to time took upon themselves the sacred office
to ~~some extent~~ ^{Christ's Gospel} ~~the ministry & presence~~
~~to preach for, while adherent to this~~

shunnen
what ever
was un-
fay to
sound
doctrine,
and one
sided
opinions
of which
insisted
on

~~Apocalyptic~~ ~~the~~ We should not have,
then, witness to many divisions, so many
sects & parties among professing Christians.
Selfish views, personal motives, partial
~~or one sided opinions, vain glory, feeling~~
~~hence among men partial & one sided~~
~~opinions obstinately & personally maintained~~
~~there~~ ^{there} has been the fruitful source
of false doctrine, of error, of schism &
division in the Church. ~~There may in~~
~~various ways preach themselves rather~~
~~than Christ.~~

You will ^{be then} observe ~~that~~ the spectacle
sets up rather a high standard
for himself & others, to counteract that
selfishness, self seeking & self pleasing,
to which corrupt human nature is
so prone. It becomes every minister of
Christ to examine himself ^{carefully} ~~carefully~~ ^{and}
^{wholesome} ~~erring~~ to this plain, ~~but comfortable~~ ^{rule};
^{rule,} ~~perhaps~~ ^{or test,} ~~for it will tend to a strong~~
lest selfish motives should gain over us,

We require all to be in our guard
~~test~~, in as much as self, in some shape or
other, will creep in, ~~whether~~ ^{whether}, in
preaching ^{or} other labors. Few, if any;
~~of~~ How few, if any of professedly Chris-
tian ministers can in the ~~present~~ ^{present} ~~state~~ ^{state} imitate
the Apostle's assertion. ^{For} we preach
not ourselves, ^{or} we preach Christ ~~truly~~ ^{plainly}.
Men may preach themselves, in various
ways, or, what means the same thing,
seek themselves ~~alone~~ ^{more}, or,
less, ~~or~~ ^{if not altogether}, by their preaching ^{or} other ministrations.
If a man, for instance, ~~who enters the Church~~ ^{should enter the ministry of the Church}
chiefly for the sake of filthy lucre, ~~chiefly~~ ^{for the} sake of ~~making a living~~ ^{getting a living}, like any other
profession, ~~or~~ ^{we} ~~preach~~ ^{will be} Christ, ^{or} will he
not rather be desirous to please men for gain
~~or~~ ^{in reality} preach himself? Or, if a man is
too anxious to obtain ~~at~~ ^{to} some distinction
in the world, ~~the~~ ^{worldly} reputation & court popularity
rather than to approve himself to his Divine
Master, what is it but seeking & preaching self
~~at~~ ^{at} gain? Men are mainly influenced

~~we~~ ^{faithfully} ~~expect~~ ^{that he will} ~~preach~~ ^{faithfully} ~~Christ~~ ^{Will he}

by ambitious vain glory & strive to display
their talents & acquirements, to be applauded

the truth
in its simpli-
city & integri-
ty & integrity
what else
are they doing
but preach
& seek them-
selves &
nation

brace
Christ with
heart &
soul

Had ~~any~~
shin
instead of
gold, silver
& precious
stones
etc.

~~it is not he but rather than to~~ ^{declare}
~~the truth~~
~~in its integrity & simplicity~~
~~they do any thing else but preach themselves &~~
~~seek himself.~~ If men, ~~attending~~ are so ~~ready~~
ready to attract their learners to themselves,
to a personal following rather than to
lead them to ~~Christ~~, must we not say of them
they preach themselves? If a man is envious &
jealous ~~be~~ at another man who labors
with more ~~success~~ acceptance & success,
instead of rejoicing that the gospel is truly
preached & ~~some~~ ~~real~~ ~~good~~ ~~done~~ there
is evidently too much self-seeking. ^{is Christ}
if preached at all ~~it is not~~ ^{it is not} ~~at all~~ ^{at all}
from the purest & highest motives. It is
against all such self-seeking ^{aims} & vain-
glorious views that our text is directed.
It matters not by what means or methods
men try to exalt themselves, or gain
some advantage, so long as they do not

preach the Gospel
glory ^{promptly} by
~~their preaching~~
self. If ^{they}
~~to him, as self~~
will ~~attend~~ ^{at}
~~Jesus men of old~~
~~also faithfully~~
~~unto us~~, but
will not be ill
him. Let us
take, how we
proven ~~in~~ ^{by}
bibles which
to Christ in
~~Jesus the Lord~~
office & super
To preach
means to be
Lent in the full
power, as on
As Christ

positive part of un
then does it really
at? How may we
be indeed able
to sustain and
in Christ Jesus
which St Paul
and character of
and represent
of his saving
Apostle speaks
of the Lord,

essive of some spe
which I understand
announced his
~~not by the Father~~
~~by qualified to~~
~~As Jesus has~~
~~been able to us in~~
~~as a father of~~
ble & willing to
~~being High Priest,~~
~~Redeemer, &c.~~

Now it may be admitted that
vain ambition, or some self-inter-
ested aim will ~~interpose~~, at times,
interfere with our best efforts &
sincere desires to promote the glory
of Christ; yet such selfish in-
fluences will not be allowed to
preeminate, or, to become the ruling
principle, ^{with} faithful servants of
Christ, ~~we shall~~ against them

II. But we proceed to the
positive part of our text & ask:
What then does it really mean
to preach Christ? Or, how may
we approve ourselves able min-
isters of the N. Testament and lead
men to Christ? The very names &
titles which St Paul ascribes to

to our blessed Lord in the text

to the person & character of our blessed Lord are significant & represent him in the fulness of his saving grace. Mark, brethren, the Apostle speaks of him as Christ Jesus, the Lord. Thus giving us to understand that he ~~contains~~ ^{unites} in himself a threefold Office. As Christ he is God's Anointed his only begotten Son, sent to reveal the Father & his gracious designs. As Jesus he is a partaker of ^{human} our nature of our flesh & blood, both able & willing to save sinners. As Lord he is endued with all might & power, our Master King & Ruler to whom we owe allegiance, our homage & obedience. Indeed the words of our text remind us of the various Offices with which Christ is invested when he is spoken of as Prophet

Prince & King, or, when he himself
represents himself to us as the way
the truth & the life, ~~to~~ through whom
we must ~~be~~ come to the Father.

Now to preach Christ and truth &
sincerity, in order to convert & save
sinners, to edify believers & bud-
minister comfort to all who are
convinced of their sinfulness & guilt,
their need of mercy; we must not
cease to proclaim Christ's atonement,
and all sufficiency to save all that
come to him & long for his salvation.
We must point out to all that are
weary & heavy laden, his gracious
& pressing invitation, his unreserved
love & pity. We must tell the man
oppressed with sin & guilt & fear.
Behold the Lamb of God which
beareth the sins of the world.
We preach Christ, when we exhort

the merits of Christ; death & passion,
the power & efficacy of his resurrection.
Christ crucified must be our theme
leaving none, though his own may
be a stumbling block to us of old
~~to the self-righteous formalist or~~
the wise of this world. The all suf-
ficiency ~~powerful & completeness~~ of
his atonement cannot be too
~~freely~~ loudly proclaimed. For
when Christ exclaimed on the cross
It is finished: Man's redemption
was complete. By one sacrifice
he has perfected for ever them
that are sanctified. ~~For ever~~
Nor must we fail to show how
God was just & the Justifier
of the ungodly when Christ died
on the cross. To these comforting
assurances & glorious truths

we must direct the anxious in-
quirer after the way of salvation.

But then it follows that faith in
Christ if genuine, will not leave
men careless & unfruitful; that
unless, ~~they are in the vine~~,
they abide in the Vine & bring
forth fruit, the barren branch
will be cut off & cast by the side.

Accordingly we may say we preach
Christ when we appeal to ~~men~~ ^{the careless}
ⁱⁿ St Paul's language of warning ^{• negligent}
How shall we escape, if we
neglect so great salvation?

We preach Christ when we tell men,
if you reject Christ now as your
Savior, you will hereafter meet
him as your Judge, who will judge
you according to your works.

May we not then preach Christ, when

we tell the backslider, that by
yielding again to his former sins,
he crucifies Christ afresh.

Again Moreover we must preach Christ
so as to show & convince men that
all the truths & doctrines of the Scriptures,
^{as to ~~the~~} all the promises & hopes of the Gospel
^{center in Him} derive their vitality & ~~power~~

blended effects from Him who is
both God & Man & appointed as the
great Mediator between an offending
God & the offending sinner.

Now men we can enforce no pre-
cept or command of God; we will
~~in order~~ to prove ^{affectional} & lead
men to holiness & true righteousness
except when based on the love of
God in Christ Jesus & his re-
deeming work which we preach

But above all let us remember
that we can only preach Christ in
truth & sincerity when we can
speak of him from our own happy
experience, as those who are
united to Christ by a living
faith & can say with the Apostle
that the light of Christ, glori-
ous Gospel has shined into
their hearts.

These ^{are} truths ^{which} ought to impress
themselves deeply on our hearts
& minds, they are a safe rule for us who
~~to guide the Ministry of the Gospel~~ ^{are} called
upon a solemn task for our ^{to the} ~~heaven~~ ^{Ministry}
heaven, by which they may know ^{of the}
whether we preach Christ in reality. ^{of the}
Gospel

We must preach Christ ^{crucified} ~~his cross~~
though a stumbling block to the self-righteous
& foolishness to the wise of this world
Again we preach Christ when we tell the
believer that he must abide in him the
vine & bring forth the fruits of the
Spirit.

III, Lastly, as I shall briefly notice, our preaching
 & conversation must be such, as to offer & pre-
 sent ourselves your servants for Jesus' sake.
 Though set over you in the Love, commis-
 sioned & authorized, to speak the truth in all
 plainness & with boldness to exhort, to admonish & re-
 prove wherever there is need, without the fear
 of man, without respect of person, it is not for
 us to lend it over God's heritage, but rather
 to approve ourselves as willing servants
 who have your interest, your spiritual wel-
 fare at heart. No labor no toil must be
 too much for us, no opportunity must be neg-
 lected to do good, to reclaim sinners to
 seek like our Master, the good Shepherd, the
 lost & wandering sheep. To visit the sick, to
 comfort the afflicted, to warn the unwise, to aid
 with our counsel, our prayers, to spend & be spent
 for the benefit of immortal souls, to apply
 diligently our time, our talents, not easily to
 be fainthearted or weary amidst our engagement,
 & opposition such must be our exactness with
 such the service we render unto the Church.
 High & low, rich & poor must be partakers
 of the benefit of our ministrations. As
 Christ our Master humbled himself to
 become the servant of all who were
 ready to receive him, so must we imitate

To give proof
 that we
 seek not
 your but
 you
 we seek
 not your
 but you

I have not come
 to be ministered
 unto but
 to minister

his example & lay out ourselves for the
good of all who will receive up & respond
to our exhortations & admonitions. And all
this for Jesus sake. It is when the love
of Christ constraineth us, when from ~~the~~ ^{our own}
experience we can testify of his power
to save that we are prompted to seek the
salvation of others & ~~we~~ take courage
to beseech men, to persuade & urge
them to be reconciled to God.

Such dear brethren are the
Smiths of the Gospel which we have
to declare such the principles of
sound doctrine, and such is
our charge solemn & responsible
charge. May we then at all
times declare unto you the whole
counsel of God for your salvation
and may you receive the word
with a quick teachable spirit
for the saving of your souls.

Minister
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