

A Sermon  
from  
2 Corinths: V, 20

Now then we are ambassadors  
for Christ as though God did  
beseech you by us, we pray  
you in Christ's stead, be ye  
reconciled to God.

---

Of all the offices & functions  
with which a man can be entrusted  
none are more solemn & responsible  
than those of a minister of the Gospel;  
for he has to do with things most  
sacred, and has to give an account  
of his stewardship as regards immortal  
souls. He stands in a most important  
relation to the people to whom he is sent  
and carries a message fraught with



the most momentous consequences both for  
time & eternity. Well might he exclaim  
with the Apostle: "Who is sufficient  
for these things?" It is therefore of the  
first importance that we should be ~~certain~~  
sure of being divinely called to the sacred  
Office, and able to say with St Paul:  
"not by the will of man, but by the will of  
God" I am set apart to the Ministry of  
the Gospel. [You will call to mind, brethren,  
that such is the intention of our Church,  
brought home, in a solemn manner  
to all who seek to enter the Ministry at  
our Ordination Service, when we have  
to answer questions like these: Do you  
trust that you are inwardly moved by  
the H. Ghost to take upon you this Office  
& Ministration? Or do you think in  
your heart that you be duly called  
according to the will of our Lord Jesus  
Christ?"] Then, if there assuredly  
our call to the Ministry, though sensible  
of our own insufficiency, we may yet



Take courage & say with the Apostle:  
"But our sufficiency is of God." When  
this question is settled in our hearts  
& consciences, then nothing need make  
us afraid, no weakness of ours need  
hinder us to act as Christ's am-  
bassadors & to appear with all con-  
fidence & boldness to our heavenly  
Father to be reconciled to God. Nor need we  
~~at any time~~ be disheartened, even  
though our message may not at once be  
responded to & our preaching not  
always produce the fruit we might  
desire. We may confidently trust  
that the seed sown will in due time  
spring up & that God's word shall  
not return void. "Paul may plant  
& Apollos water, but God alone can  
give the increase. It is our duty to be  
faithful, to attend on our ministry  
with all diligence & prayer, to preach  
the word in season & out of season; we  
need not despair then of the issue, a  
blessing will come or later accompany



our labors. The Lord will not forsake  
his own work. Be the harvest small or  
great, even a few souls saved will be  
a sufficient reward to make us rejoice  
at the day of Christ's appearing.

It is with this trust, with this confident  
hope dear brethren, that I desire to appear  
to you this day, in Christ's stead, as one  
~~of his messengers, or as a minister,~~ <sup>called to the ministry of the gospel,</sup> I would  
beseech you one & all to inquire,  
whether you have obeyed the call  
to be reconciled to God, and if yet  
in doubt, if undecided hitherto, let me  
exhort each not to delay their reconci-  
liation ~~with God~~, not to receive any  
longer God's grace in vain. Remember  
the word preached to you ~~is set~~,  
from time to time is a message from  
on high & he who disregards or despises  
our message despises him who sends.

But we proceed to a more direct inquiry  
into the import of our text, and shall  
agreeably to it consider <sup>mitted to men</sup>

- I, The sacred & responsible office of  
Christ's ministers and why it is com-
- II, The special & most essential message



which they have to deliver. and in conclusion  
we shall offer

III, A few remarks for practical application.

And may God grant unto us  
ministers & hearers a due appreciation  
of our mutual relation & our responsi-  
bility towards him, and render our mutual  
meditation instructive & edifying to  
us all.

I, In considering the sacred & responsible  
office of Christ's minister, I would <sup>and why it</sup>  
in the first place observe that God <sup>is committed</sup>  
might, without doubt accomplish <sup>to men?</sup>  
all his wishes & designs by his own  
sovereign will & omnipotent power,  
by his word of command, without in-  
aid. Nevertheless we know, that he  
carries on many of his gracious oper-  
ations by various instruments & means,  
either by human or angelic agencies,  
or ~~through some established laws~~  
~~both moral & physical~~. To a reflect-  
ing mind it becomes evident that God



would have his intelligent creatures, & especially man made in his own image, participate & aid in his designs as a fellow worker & then train him for his own glory. Of angels we are vividly told in the Scriptures that they are ministering spirits ministering to men, the heirs of salvation, the guardians of those that fear & love God. They stand before God awaiting his commands waiting to fulfil his commands. We read of them as messengers from on high to some of God's chosen servants & further that they conducted the spirits of just men into the bosom of the Abrahams, as for instance Lazarus into Abraham's bosom. We might imagine accordingly, that these pure celestial spirits, to instruct guide & enlighten sinful men in the way to life everlasting. But it was reserved for man, for fellow creatures to be mainly instrumental of bringing erring sinners into the way of righteousness. The ministry of the word, the preaching of the Gospel admonition & warning are committed to human agents. Angels were sent

1 were daily  
qualified



in order to announce to men Christ's coming  
in the flesh, but John the Baptist's  
task was to prepare the way before him, by  
the preaching of repentance. An angel  
was sent from heaven with a gracious  
message to Coraelius; but he was ~~not~~ <sup>not</sup> ~~not~~  
~~to send for Peter~~ <sup>directed to send for</sup>  
Peter that he might be instructed in  
the way of salvation. The glad message is entrusted  
~~has to be delivered by human instruments~~ <sup>to human</sup>  
~~instruments~~ <sup>instruments</sup>. Men of like passions, en-  
compassed with infirmities, even when <sup>generally</sup> often  
~~often~~ weak & frail are chosen & appointed  
to act as messengers of God, as ambassa-  
dors for Christ. You might ask, rather,  
why is this? why not ~~send~~ have perfect  
& sinless beings to bear men to holiness &  
purity of living? We might simply answer  
& content ourselves by saying, God wills  
it so that one man should guide &  
teach another. But a little reflection  
will show us some reasons why God  
has so ordained it. To elucidate these  
reasons, we may put some other questions



& ask: why did not God redeem man  
by some other method or means than  
by the giving of his Son? And why did  
his only begotten Son take our nature,  
our flesh & blood on himself? Could he  
not in some other way have wrought out  
our redemption, <sup>or at least our reconciliation with</sup> ~~as pleasure to the Father~~  
God?  
~~to bring about the same reconciliation~~  
~~with an offering of sacrifice?~~ Among various  
reasons which may be assigned, the Apostle  
in his Epistle to the Hebrews, gives a very  
prevalent & significant reason which will  
serve our purpose. St Paul reasons thus:  
For in that he himself has suffered, being  
tempted, he is able to succor them that  
are tempted? And again we have not an  
high Priest which can not be touched with  
the feeling of our infirmities, but was in  
all points tempted, like as we are, yet  
without sin. Accordingly it is Christ's  
human nature, which preeminently fitted  
him to be our merciful sympathizing  
High Priest. He can enter fully & exper-  
imentally into man's condition, because  
himself sojourned on earth in human flesh.



Assuredly, his ~~deep felt sympathy and~~  
sympathies would thus be engaged in our  
behalf. Now in like manner, we may  
assert, that men once themselves erring  
sinners, and still liable to failings &  
temptations, can feel for those who err  
& go astray, <sup>or are</sup> struggling with the ~~the~~ infirmities of human  
~~nature & liable to fall.~~ <sup>of human nature.</sup> They can pity others  
from their own past & present experience.  
Men once dead in trespasses & sin, but  
now alive in Christ, are best capable  
of recommending to ~~others~~, such who  
seek for pardon & peace, how to ob-  
tain <sup>grace</sup> salvation & the regenerating power  
of God's Spirit. If we are living  
examples of God's converting grace, <sup>as we are all to</sup>  
~~& the operation of the Holy Spirit,~~ <sup>be</sup> we  
can bear an effective & convincing  
testimony to others, for their guidance &  
comfort. Whatever angels may be able  
to do, they could not ~~thus influence men~~ <sup>in the same manner</sup>  
~~but~~ bear testimony from their own  
experience. We can generally speak  
of things which we practically know,  
of things which we have seen felt & tasted.



This I repeat is a ~~strong~~ & urgent reason why you employ men rather than angels to preach the Gospel to every sinner & to build up the faith of those who have embraced Christ. The Son of God would take upon him the nature of angels, but the nature of men, and consequently our union with Christ by a living faith, and <sup>our high calling & hope</sup> ~~our calling & hope~~ to be joint heirs with him are calculated to fit & enable us to be fellow workers with him.

But besides you wills it both for his own glory & our spiritual ~~good~~ growth & improvement, that we should all have some work to do to exercise & exemplify our ~~for~~ faith & patience, our love & pity, our confidence & hope, ~~following Christ's example.~~

As a good & wise parent will train a child, not only for his own benefit, but for the good of others, for well doing, ~~to action~~ ~~& more than in need & distress~~, will afford the child at times opportunities to be the dispenser of some gifts & benefits, so you will teach us, by various calls of duty to learn to do good, Our Divine

as to those  
in need



<sup>rule</sup>  
Marking <sup>rule</sup> every one all was with to do, to  
prove an genuine membership with his  
spiritual body, the Church. Each has  
some ability, some talent wherewith to  
serve him & glorify his name. But from  
the diversity of gifts it follows, that there  
must be different functions & ministrations.

The order & rule of the Church, the union  
& edification of all its members demand  
it that there should be some appointed  
to higher <sup>more</sup> ~~office & administration~~ <sup>success</sup> ~~offices~~.

Hence the great Head of the Church from  
from the beginning set, or appointed,  
some Apostles, prophets, evangelists, teachers,  
and others for the general good.

When Christ sent his Apostles to preach  
the Gospel to all nations, he uttered the  
encouraging promise; And lo I am with  
you even unto the end of the world.  
It was not this that there should be  
a succession of faithful witnesses of the  
Gospel, the ministry of the word should  
never cease. If some should intrude  
into the Church without a due call  
& proceed false doctrine, the Lord will



the true  
Church of  
Christ will  
unlearn  
to be serious

raise others who are faithful. If one  
<sup>visible</sup> Church should en, the ~~Lord will find~~  
~~instrument, to raise & revive raised & raise~~  
~~a body of men to form a new & genuine~~  
~~& powerful Church~~. Then shall men be  
roaring messengers of peace & ambassador  
for Christ. In ambassador you  
are aware hold a most responsible office  
his duties are generally of weighty nature.  
He acts not in his own name <sup>or in</sup> but in his own  
authority, but in the name of the ruler  
of ~~for~~ whom he represents, or the governor  
of a nation for whom he is commissioned.  
~~to act~~. Then it is ~~must be~~ or ought  
to be with those who act in Christ's behalf  
& for the benefit of his Church. We can  
celebrate no other message than that which  
is entrusted to us, which is the pure Gospel  
of Christ, the great & fundamental truths  
of God's word. We can not preach merely  
to please men, to attract itching ears &  
to obtain human applause, by a display  
of human wisdom, or, that kind of eloquence  
& elegance of speech which may be admired  
by the generality of men, ~~often~~ it may be said  
who care little about true religion & genuine

And this  
will  
concern  
to the  
sinner  
part of  
our  
Sert  
or to the  
question  
What, then, is



spiritual religion, or godliness of living.  
What men can fairly & reasonably require  
of us is ~~that we should~~ <sup>that we should</sup> ~~correctness in~~  
conduct on the one hand, and a clear intel-  
ligent & convincing statement of Gospel  
truth on the other, ~~to reach men's hearts,~~  
& ~~conscience~~ followed by a univ. life.

II) But we proceed to the second part of  
our text, viz: The special & ministerial  
message which we have to deliver?

It is the message of reconciliation, which implies  
~~we must all confess our sins & return to~~  
~~appeal to men, as authorized & com-~~  
~~missioned from on high to be reconciled~~  
to God. Mark the Apostle's language  
As though you did beseech you  
by us, we pray you in Christ's stead  
to be reconciled to God. "We are  
to speak

God's grace  
Offer of  
pardon &  
man's need  
of repentance  
We must  
appeal  
with con-  
fidence  
assurance

As I have <sup>hastily</sup> ~~more or less~~ anticipated the  
message in its essential points, I may  
be brief ~~in what I shall say~~  
Mark then ~~in the first place~~ dear brethren, in  
the first place, we are to use entreaty, we  
are to appeal to you, in urgent & earnest,



For you  
was in  
Christ,  
reconciling  
the world  
unto him-  
self. A  
surprise  
that He

language with feeling hearts, prompted by the  
consuming love of Christ by love & pity for  
perishing sinners for whom Christ has died.  
He ye reconciled to God & for God is re-  
conciled to you. He is ready & willing  
to <sup>pardone & accept you</sup> ~~reconcile you~~. He is come in his Son to  
all you could desire & expect to  
~~justify your sins~~ to blot out your  
transgressions. For the great sin bearer  
even Jesus Christ, both God & man, has  
made an all sufficient atonement, satis-  
faction & oblation for the sins of the world.  
God has loved & chosen us in his only  
begotten Son Christ Jesus, if we only  
on our part are ready to respond to his love.  
The love of the Father is eternal & un-  
changeable, he never ceases to <sup>generously call</sup> ~~love~~ <sup>pity</sup> ~~have~~ <sup>to vindicate his</sup> ~~perishing~~  
sinners. True his justice & holiness ~~are~~  
~~manifested~~ a sacrifice, <sup>was a sacrifice</sup> ~~in~~ <sup>but not</sup>  
but himself delivered up his Son for  
our offences & raised him again for our  
justification. God's anger against sin  
against man's rebellion was mingled  
with the love of a Father towards us.



erring children. he would not condemn the name of any  
child, ~~not to condemn the name but to~~ <sup>any means</sup> ~~reclaim him & bring him back to him-~~ <sup>he can</sup>  
self. He is ready to embrace the prodigal  
son; ~~he will meet~~ The greatest of sinners will be pardoned  
if he will. But let us not resist & persecute  
confessing his sins & seeking for ~~his~~ mercy.  
We may therefore speak with full as-  
surance, with all the confidence that







complete resting on the grace of love of God  
the Father, the mediation of his Son &  
the gracious operations of the H. Spirit  
who dwells with you to make you his  
abode his temple, his vessel of grace.

III, In conclusion, let me point out to you briefly  
~~in a few remarks~~ some of the evidences  
& proofs of reconciliation. ~~If you~~  
~~are reconciled to God~~ I might enumerate  
various marks & evidences by which genuine  
repentance & faith, ~~with~~ and the reconcili-  
ation & pardon accompanying them  
are attested, but I must content myself  
with but a few remarks. Reconciliation  
is necessarily accompanied by the regenerating  
influence of the H. Spirit & will result  
in a newness of living, in an earnest an-  
flict against ~~sin~~ our spiritual enemies  
sin, the flesh & the devil. The old man  
must be put off & the new man put on.  
But above all he who is reconciled &  
has found peace with God, will  
learn to sympathize with others, he must  
feel pity for all who still are wandering  
astray from Christ's fold, or are destitute



of the means of grace. Love & gratitude  
will prompt him to do something  
for the glory of God & the advancement of  
Christ's Kingdom, for the benefit of those  
who are as yet destitute of the means  
of grace & the ornaments of religion.

Now let me remind you, brethren,  
we need not look to foreign lands,  
not to those who sit in leather  
cloakness. There are members in this  
Colony who never hear the means of the  
Gospel, though professed members of the  
Church, they too often live as if they had  
~~never heard of~~ even without God  
without hope, ~~with~~ in this country, as if  
they with out the knowledge of him who  
came to save sinners. Shall we feel indif-  
ferent to ~~such~~ men in this condition, shall we  
~~be content simply to serve the temporal~~  
~~interests~~  
not all who have their own spiritual welfare  
before at least, or who can for the general  
good of society ~~will~~, offer a helping hand  
& contribute according to their means toward  
the support of ministers of the Gospel  
into the wilds of this country, which it



is weaker placed to bring about by that  
Church Society which held its meeting  
here last Friday evening. No good  
Christian man will regret that he enjoys  
the precious grace & the communion of the  
Church without caring for those who  
are deprived of these blessings.

One of the surest proofs that you are  
devoted to God & our souls  
for your own mortal soul, will  
be by an active use, by an active  
effort & by an liberal use ~~to~~  
towards the ~~good~~ spiritual welfare  
of others. If you truly care for  
your own salvation you will