

of Christ, and that if you are trusting in Jesus you are justified from all things, and that you have everlasting life.

Have you rested upon this, like those of Acts x. 43, of whom it is said, that "while Peter yet spake these words, the Holy Ghost fell on all them which heard the word" ?

If you believe in Jesus your sins are forgiven, and you have the Holy Ghost dwelling in you, and are thus united to your Head, and to all the members of His body on earth.

May the Lord give us to know this wonderful truth better, and to carry it out in practice, and recognizing all believers all over the world as members of this one body, and serving them because He loves them, and because they belong to Him.

R. F. K.

THE MINISTRY OF THE GOSPEL.

"**B**UT as we were *allowed of God to be put in trust* with the gospel, even so we speak." (1 Thess. ii. 4.) This is not the language of some novice just beginning to preach, but the utterance of Paul the apostle, whose ministry was "in demonstration of the Spirit, and of power." His manner of speaking showed that he was fully conscious of the solemnity of his trust, and that the dignity of his message lent its character to the bearer.

One fears a tendency to undertake this service too carelessly, and many without the ability or experience of the apostle speak of "taking the gospel" in a way which gives no evidence of a real sense of the responsibility of standing for God between the living and the dead.

Usually one unaccustomed to preaching will greatly feel his weakness, and realize that indeed he can do nothing apart from God's enabling. There is danger lest this sense of absolute dependence should be lost when a measure of fluency has been attained.

Another thing in connection with preaching the gospel is the frequent lack of a real *sympathy* with the unsaved. It is at times too evident that the preacher's *heart* is not touched by the sadness of their condition. Could he look behind the scenes he would often find a frivolous manner is the veil which hides an aching heart. An uneasy conscience, a dread of the future, and that spiritual poverty which has needs no earthly friend can satisfy, all these may often be found beneath the surface. I do not think a man is fit to preach the gospel unless his heart is touched with true compassion for the lost. When we remember the temptations that have been encountered, the fruitless struggles against the power of sin, and the hopeless failures to live aright, may the manner of our dealing with the unsaved show that we pity them rather than condemn.

S. E. MC N.