

I. The Wordsmith (vv 9-10).**A. The Character of the Preacher**

- 1) Which was certainly true of Solomon (1 Kgs 4:29-34)
- 2) Which is to be true of all ministers (and Christians) (Ezra 7:10)
- 3) The Wisdom of Faithful Ministers (and wise Christians)
 - a) A student of Scripture (2 Tim 2:15)
 - b) A student of experience: (i) His own life (Phil 3:4-7); (ii) Nature (1 Cor 11:14-15); (iii) History (Rom 15:4); (iv) Culture (Acts 17:28)
 - c) A student of the times: (i) Knew what needed to be accomplished (Neh 2:17-18); (ii) Knew the prevailing sins inside and outside the Church (Neh 5, 8, 13); (iii) Knew his enemies (Neh 6:14); (iv) Put knowledge in action (Neh 6:15)

B. The Calling of the Preacher (2 Tim 4:2-5)**C. The Care of the Preacher over his work**

- 1) *Ponder* — The need for: (a) Meditation; (b) Application; (c) Prayer
- 2) *Sought out* — The need for study
- 3) *Arranged [set in order]* —

D. The Content of the Preacher's meditation

- 1) *Acceptable* — Beauty, pleasure, delight (Pr 15:2)
- 2) *Upright* — That which is good, righteous;
- 3) *Truth* — That which aligns with the purposes and design of God in reality, to tell the thing as it is

E. Uses from the Text

- 1) This is to be the substance of our study and meditation.
- 2) This is to be the substance of our conversation (Psa 19:14)

II. The Word (v 11).**A. The Quality of the Word**

- 1) Wisdom (Col 3:16)
- 2) Knowledge (Mt 22:31-32; Gal 3:16)

B. The Work of the Word (two illustrations)

- 1) Prod you to holiness

- a) There is a job to be done, to glorify and enjoy God
- b) We are not by nature particularly eager to do it
- c) So we are prodded by the Word

2) Fix you to the truth

- a) We are prone to ignorance and incorrectness
- b) We are prone to inconsistency

C. The Giver of the Word

- 1) Many human authors (*RP Testimony* 1.5)
- 2) One Divine Author (2 Pt 1:21; 2 Tim 3:16)

D. Uses from the Text

- 1) These qualities of the Word induce appreciation and provide an apologetic for the Word (*WCF* 1.5)
- 2) But the conviction and persuasion of the authority of the Bible comes from the Word itself and the Spirit working through the Word (*WCF* 1.5)
- 3) We ought to love the Scriptures, the Book of books!

III. The Warning (v 12).**A. Do not bind your conscience to any other rule**

- 1) We are to be admonished by the Word of God:
- 2) We are not to bind our conscience to the doctrines of men (1 Cor 7:23)

B. Beware speculation and innovation

- 1) Quantity
- 2) Quality
- 3) The impulse of modernism
- 4) The warning against speculation and innovation which fills so many books (1 Tim 1:6-7)
- 5) Go to the Word! (Isa 8:20)

C. Beware the rabbit trail of obsession

- 1) What is meant by much study is wearisome to the flesh?
- 2) Why is much study wearisome to the flesh?
- 3) God's kindness and condescension in giving us the Word (Psa 40:5)
- 4) Let us then, ever delight in the Word, wherein we are called by the Lord Christ to come to Him in our weariness and find true rest.