

"SINGLE MINDEDNESS"**Introduction**

The subject I present: our need to be single-minded.

I do so for various reasons:

- (i) it is real Christianity – apostolic (Paul our example) – back to NT Christianity
- (ii) it keeps our eye on our Duty (we do not know if God will send revival in our times much as wish)
- (iii) it must be the way of blessing for us + our people because "ye shall seek me – heart"

DOCTRINE: Christ lived for us with all his might + so...

TEXT: Not just for preachers, but for all Christians – let us look at its message: "this one thing"!

- 1) (i) Obj. "Paul - many: travel / churches / letters"
Ans. "The outward life – the inward spring"

- 2) **SUM**: "I have one supreme desire: to know Christ in all the fullness of His love + grace (Eph. 3)
(i) "forgetting"
BUT: However much of Christ – I want more
(ii) "reaching forth – press toward mark"
(**NOT**: more converts / more letters but more personal knowledge of Christ in my own soul.
APPLICATION: This (whatever else) is our Duty (v.15, 16)

1. THIS SINGLE-MINDEDNESS OF SOUL IS ESSENTIAL IF WE ARE TO EXCEL IN GOD'S WORK

- 1) Brethren, we must put our SOUL first:
 - (i) The apostolic view of the ministry:
"Give thyself wholly..."
Acts 6 – "It is not reason – leave the word of God..."
"We give ourselves continually..."
 - (ii) The apostolic priority:
Phil. 3:10 – "That I may know him...if by any reason"
"I follow after...apprehend that..."
DOCTRINE: A marvellous description of single-

mindedness

- 2) If we do not put soul first we shall be weak when the hour of trial comes:
 - (i) "Watch and pray" – Gethsemane – fled
 - (ii) The work we do is a "fight" (Eph. 6)
 - (iii) Energy is of the soul – wrestle in prayer / against fear + temptation.
ILLUSTRATION: Abraham, Jacob, Hezekiah: "stressed"?
- 3) The reproach of a dead Christianity
 - (i) "left thy first love" (very busy)
 - (ii) "a name to live...dead"
 - (iii) "luke-warm – spent..."
APPLICATION: Is not this the ROOT problem?

2. SINGLE-MINDEDNESS CLARIFIES OUR VISION OF WHAT WE OUGHT TO DO FOR GOD

- 1) It reminds us that our real-work is to promote the gospel + to save souls:
 - (i) Acts 2:42: the ideal church – full of life, love, truth, zeal, devotion.
 - (ii) the primacy of preaching: "they ceased not to teach and preach Jesus Christ (Acts 5:41-42)
 - (iii) seek to have God working with us: "When they had prayed – place shaken"
APPLICATION: This heavenly vision must not fade.
- 2) We are warned that it may fade:
 - (i) "No man...two masters": Christ only
 - (ii) "If the light in you be darkness..."
- 3) We are in a post-conflict situation:

ILLUSTRATION: WWII – debris to clear away – but now – let us get on with the great task
- 4) Look at the NT again:
 - (i) "Woe is me – preach not..." (Ryle)

(ii) "The fields are white..."

APPLICATION: O let us see what our main work is!

3. **SINGLENESS OF HEART CONCENTRATES THE MIND ON THE MAIN TASK**

- 1) "This one thing": to glorify God + to honour Christ
- 2) I hear that an objection: "God is not pleased to bless in this generation": But if He sees a new spirit in His people, who knows?
Illustration: William Carey

CONCLUSION

Our labour not in vain in the Lord.

PSALM

146: 1 – 7

71: 3 – 9

46: 8 – 11