

Methodism boasts that it could write its theology on a dime but it took God the Holy Ghost sixty-six books. And it took God the Holy Ghost 1500 years. Well now, the way that I look at is that the Bible says, "It pleased God through the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe." Now, of course, this is only a speculation and we can differ from it without suffering any harm whatever. But why did God appoint Hebrew people like myself to expound His Word? Why didn't God provide or cause a miraculous presentation of the whole Bible in every language? That on a certain day in the week in every country of the world, it would rain Bibles. That a certain time everybody would become acquainted with letters so they could read the Bible for themselves. Well, of course, these fantastic speculations do not require any answer, but if you think of it, there is a point upon this. Because just as my ^{cutler} ~~paper~~ in my illustration took from a great piece of cloth just the piece that would suit my dimensions, so the preacher is emersed in a certain environment. His reactions are determined by all ^{batteries} ~~faculties~~ of influence that bear upon it, for instance, you can't take a street car in this country without discovering before finishing your journey that three ^{3-10 1/2} is refreshing. And then multitudes of influences bringing to bear on you and directing the channel of life in certain ways. Now that channel is found in God's Word. But it is there ~~mixed~~ with a great many others. God had the whole human race to consider and the various periods of development and the conditions of life in one circumstance and in another circumstance. Therefore, the preacher rightly divides the Word of truth. He takes from it the suitable messages to our age and he places on them the correct emphasis that is required for our needs. It is no easy job either. "Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing ~~the~~ (not cutting in pieces) but rightly adjusting to the needs of those whom you meet God's blessed Word. Some men require the message of harsh judgment to awaken them from a life of slothfulness and sin. Some men require the comfort of healing, of grace and pardon, that they boy in shame and misery