

# **THE INTERPRETER**

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The interpreter by Washington Gladden

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**WASHINGTON GLADDEN**

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BY  
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*Author of*

*"Present-Day Theology," "The Labor Question," "Ultima Veritas"  
"Being a Christian," "The Christian Way," "The Practice  
of Immortality," "The School of Life"*



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To  
**The Congregational Churches**

*in whose ministry I have served for fifty-eight years; who gave me the right to preach the Gospel; who have given me, through all these years, the sympathy and encouragement of friendly hearers, and have furnished me, by their faithful living, with my strongest reasons for believing that the Gospel is true, these pages are affectionately inscribed.*





## PREFATORY NOTE

Some of us who used to read Samuel Taylor Coleridge sixty years ago have not forgotten that this philosopher and poet was educated for the ministry. One day he asked Charles Lamb, "Charles, did you ever hear me preach?" "No one ever heard you do anything else," said Lamb.

The humorist's confession is my boast. I have never tried to do anything else but preach. I have had no other ambition. If I can preach the highest truth I know clearly and convincingly, that, I know, will be the best service I can render to my kind.

I have never underestimated my function as a preacher. There is no higher function. The greatest among us have been preachers. Abraham Lincoln was, from first to last, a preacher of righteousness. Theodore Roosevelt won his power as a preacher. The greatest preacher of this century is Woodrow Wilson. I should like to be counted worthy to be of their company.

The preacher does well to magnify his office. He has great matters to deal with and he should not belittle them. It is not necessary to simplify truth overmuch. Even unlearned people, and young people, like to have their intelligence taken for granted by the preacher.

There is going to be a call, before many days, for a good deal of good preaching. The preacher of righteousness is put in trust with certain truths which the world greatly needs just now; let us hope that they will be spoken with power.

WASHINGTON GLADDEN.

COLUMBUS,  
*February 25, 1918.*

