

**LECTURES ON PREACHING,
DELIVERED TO THE STUDENTS OF
YALE THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE,
DURING THE SPRING SESSION,
1874**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649276370

Lectures on preaching, delivered to the students of Yale Theological college, during the spring session, 1874 by Henry Ward Beecher

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

www.triestepublishing.com

HENRY WARD BEECHER

**LECTURES ON PREACHING,
DELIVERED TO THE STUDENTS OF
YALE THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE,
DURING THE
SPRING SESSION, 1874**

LECTURES ON PREACHING.

LECTURES ON PREACHING.

BY THE REV.

HENRY WARD BEECHER.

DELIVERED TO THE STUDENTS OF

YALE THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE,

DURING THE SPRING SESSION. 1874.

THIRD SERIES.

London:

JAMES CLARKE & CO., 13, FLEET STREET;
HODDER & STOUGHTON, 27 & 31, PATERNOSTER ROW.

1874.

BV

4211

B4

v. 3

STAR

EMMANUEL

114589

CONTENTS.

LECTURE I.

The Preacher's Book.

Introductory Remarks—Sources of Truth—Science—The Church—The Bible—Its Aim : Spiritual Development of Man—Its Tender Sympathy—Its Adaptedness to Common Life—Its Wealth of Material—The Value of its Waste Matter—Its Harmony with Advancing Truth—The Divine Strength of its Infancy—The Divine Idea of Divinity—Great Preachers—The Established Authority of the Bible—"The Book" pp. 1-20

LECTURE II.

How to Use the Bible.

The Many-sidedness of the Bible—The Bible of the Closet—The Leading of Personal Need—Bondage and Liberty in Reading—The Ten Commandments—The Class-room Bible—The Value of Theology—Excellences and Defects of Calvinism—What the Bible is Not—Errors of Interpretation—Dangers of the Right Method—Human Reason to Interpret Divine Things—Relative Value of Bible Doctrines—Selection of Doctrine for Preaching—The Preacher's Bible pp. 21-43

LECTURE III.

The True Method of Presenting God.

The Great Commandment—The Objects of Preaching—Men's Ideas of God : The True Lovers—Conventionalists—General Believers—The Respectable Majority—Home-Heathen—How to Preach God—Realise His Personality—Do not Argue His Existence—Meet

Man's Moral Consciousness—Three Elements of Presentation—The Divine Personality—The Uses of Analysis—Personality not Functional Condition—Complete Conception of God Impossible—Richness of the Bible Method—Leanness of Philosophical Methods—Search the Scriptures pp. 44—62

LECTURE IV.

Conceptions of the Divinity.

Preaching of God, a Source of Power—Meaning of Personality—The Height and the Humility of God—Human Element to Represent the Divine—Human Symbolism of God—Invisible Light—The Old Testament Symbolism—Limitation of Symbols—Why these Elements have been used—Growth in Conceptions of God—The Bareness of Abstract Preaching—God in Nature—A Personal Experience—Follow the Hebraic Spirit: Not Form—How to Realise the Divine Presence—Not by Will-power—Not by Fixed Artificial Symbols—But by Seeing God in Everything . . . pp. 63—84

LECTURE V.

Practical Use of the Divine Ideal.

A Paradox—Idolatry and Mysticism—The Known Raised to the Unknown—Sense of Infinity, a Moral Power—The Danger of Infinite Ideal—The Unknowable Reduced to the Knowable—Use of the Imagination—The Humbling of Self-esteem—Growth of an Understanding of Christ—The New Testament Seen through the Old Testament—Reflected Light—Power of the Old Testament—Sacredness of the Name of God—The Preacher's Conception of God to be Practical—Symmetrical Preaching—Preach According to Necessity—Human, Need, the Preacher's Guide . . . pp. 85—105

LECTURE VI.

The Manifestation of God through Christ.

Christ's Personality the Distinguishing Element of His Instruction—Christ should be Presented Historically—Relative Importance of Chronological Accuracy—The Doctrine of Christ's Divinity—The Trinity—The Atonement—The New Jerusalem Better than the Old—Christ the Revealer of God's Personal Disposition—Christ the Deliverer—Christ to Act through the Preacher's Personality—Human Experience to Interpret the Nature of Christ—The Spirit of Christ the Central Source of Power pp. 106—123

LECTURE VII.

Views of the Divine Life in Human Conditions.

The Divine Self-consciousness of Jesus—His Social, National, and Professional Position—His Universal Sympathy—His Susceptibility to Personal Affection—Attractiveness to Christ's Bearing—Jesus not a Fault-finder—The Preacher must make Christ Desirable—Christ's Love to Sinners—Preaching must be Enforced by Practice—The Traits of Jesus must be Expanded to Infinity—The Preacher's Reward PP. 124—141

LECTURE VIII.

Sins and Sinfulness.

Sinfulness and Fundamental Theological Doctrine—The Scriptural versus the Scholastic Mode of Discussing it—The Origin of Evil—The Nature of Sin—The Doctrine of Total Depravity—The Error of the Unitarian Doctrine—Difficulty of Right Living—The Scientific Confirmation of Bible Doctrine—Individual Repentance—Hopefulness of Christ's Preaching—The Germinant Value of Morality—Opposite Dangers of Preaching Generic Sinfulness—Specification of Characters PP. 142—161

LECTURE IX.

The Sense of Personal Sin.

Conviction, to Carry Aspiration—Experience the True Text to Preach from—The Generic made Potent by the Specific—Scriptural or Natural Preaching versus Theological—Sympathy with Sinners—Knowledge Necessary to Sympathy—Conventional and Real Sins—The Sunday Question—Relative Proportions of Different Sins—Relativity of Preaching—Many Roads to Conscience—Sinfulness to be Preached toward Hope—Christ's Way PP. 162—182

LECTURE X.

The Growth of Christian Life.

Disciples of Christ—The Three Elements—Seed-time and Harvest—Beginning-Christians—Infancy Needs Protection—The First Step—Vivid Experiences Exceptional—The Point of Change—Urgency for Decisions—Earnest Preaching—Gradual Concession—The Use of Feeling—Evidences of Conversion—Disposition, the Criterion—After-Development—The Higher Life PP. 183—206

LECTURE XI.

Christian Manhood.

The Aim of Paul's Ministry—The Perfection of Human Character—
 The True Nature of Man—Object of the Christian Ministry—Need
 for Human Education—Love, the only Practical Soul Centre—
 Other Faculties Tested—The Pauline Conception—Why Paul was
 Right—The Sun of Righteousness—The Perfect Man—The
 Preacher's Mission PP. 207—225

LECTURE XII.

Life and Immortality.

Immortality in the Bible—Effect of Immortality on the Mind—The
 Reason—The Imagination—The Conscience—The Affections—This
 World Viewed in the Light of Immortality—The Bible View of the
 Future—Administration of Hope and Fear—Pictures of Heaven—
 Individual Conceptions of Heaven—A Continuous Sense of
 the Infinite—The Joy of Bringing Comfort—The Preacher's
 Refuge PP. 226—244