

# **THE PREACHER AND THE MODERN MIND**

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The preacher and the modern mind by George Jackson

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**GEORGE JACKSON**

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THE MODERN MIND**



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The 42nd Fernley Lecture

THE PREACHER  
AND  
THE MODERN MIND

BY THE  
REV. GEORGE JACKSON, B.A.

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TO  
HENRY HAIGH,  
MISSIONARY, PREACHER, AND STUDENT

IN WHOM  
THE ROYALTY OF TRUTH  
HAS ALWAYS BEEN MET BY  
THE LOYALTY OF OBEEDIENCE

WITH A YOUNGER COMRADE'S AFFECTIONATE REGARD





## PREFACE

MAY I hold the reader by the button-hole for a moment while I explain to him what to look for and what not to look for in the pages that follow? I am especially desirous that a somewhat pretentious title should not awaken expectations that cannot be fulfilled.

First of all, then, these chapters are concerned with the preacher, and with the preacher as preacher, not as scholar or philosopher. It was the purpose of the Founder of this Lecture, as indicated in the Trust Deed executed by him, that it should be delivered 'with special reference and adaptation to the necessities of the times, and with a view to the benefit of the Candidates who are about to be ordained by the Conference to the Ministry.' This two-fold instruction I have endeavoured to keep steadfastly in view throughout these pages; they are addressed to the preacher, and especially to the young preacher, who feels, and is himself seeking to minister to, 'the necessities of the times.'

Nevertheless, I am sadly conscious how inadequately the book makes good the promise of its title. To speak in homely phrase, the sign is too big for the shop. Some subjects which might fairly claim a place in any discussion of the preacher's relation to the modern mind have been omitted, or touched on only incidentally, through lack of

space ; others, because I did not feel myself competent to deal with them. And even within the limits which I have laid down, it may be that to the expert—if his eye should chance to fall on these pages—I shall appear (as a recent Bampton Lecturer puts it) to speak as a layman, and occasionally as a fool. To all of which all that needs to be said is this : that with the expert I am not concerned, except to make such use of him as I may be able ; that the title, over-ambitious as it is, is the best for my purpose I could hit on ; and that for the rest, if I have been able, on one or two aspects of my great theme, to write what is true and timely and helpful, I have accomplished to the full all that I proposed to myself in undertaking this task. Every author knows, unless he has suffered his vanity to put out the eyes of his understanding, that to the vast majority of the great reading public he has nothing whatever to say. His world is not their world, neither are his thoughts their thoughts. 'What do you in England,' an American once asked Thackeray, 'think of Martin Tupper's works ?' 'In England,' was the reply, 'we do not think of Mr. Tupper at all.' What, then, must it be with those of us who would be thankful to know we had one reader where Tupper had his thousands ? And yet we go on with our work, happy and content if we have been able to detach an interested few from the vast heedless throng. That some can be made to listen, and not only to listen, but really to care for the things for which we care, is guerdon sufficient. And when they tell us that our way of putting things does really help them, we are too thankful even to think of the multitudes who never come