

**TRANSPLANTED TRUTHS:
OR,
EXPOSITIONS OF GREAT
TEXTS IN EPHESIANS**

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Transplanted truths: or, Expositions of great texts in Ephesians by Alvah Sabin Hobart

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Or, Expositions of Great Texts in Ephesians

BY

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PREFACE

THE Scripture is an ancient book. From some standpoints it might be said to be out of fashion. But it has a vitality about it that refuses to be put aside. This is because it contains great, eternal truths and principles that are like perennial plants, that may be transplanted into new soil or removed to new climate and still bear their flowers and shed their native perfume.

The truths of the New Testament, when adapted to modern life, do for people just what they did for those to whom they were at first written. All that is necessary is to clothe the ideas in our phrase and apply them to our circumstances, and lo! the old songs of praise and the ancient peace of heart reappear. These sermons are attempts thus to transplant the ideas that gladdened the heart of Paul and of his Ephesian brethren.

THE AUTHOR.

CROZER SEMINARY, December, 1914.

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INTRODUCTION

The Essentials of Exposition

In the study of Scripture it is important to have some general knowledge of the situation under which the various books were written, and the main purpose the writer had in his writing.

It is especially necessary to avoid taking words and sentences out of their connection.

It is equally important to give each writer his own use of words. Then, as now, individuals flavored their words with their own conceptions. It would be poor interpretation to take Jesus' word "righteousness," in Matthew 6:1, to mean the same thing that Paul meant in Romans 3:5, or Philipians 3:9, when he used the same word.

When the actual ideas and conceptions of the writer have been fairly well ascertained, there remains for the teacher or the preacher the task of transposing them into modern forms of speech so that the expositions will not themselves need an expositor to make them effective.

And when the Scripture idea has been expressed in modern phrases, there remains the need of showing the practical connection with our own daily life.

For we meet a very common difficulty in keeping the value of Scripture at par. Just as, when some financial "investigation" has been started, the price of a stock falls, so, owing to some modern investigation of the Scriptures, many people hold them in less esteem and study them with less zeal, thinking they may not be always relied upon.

It would be useless to complain at this depreciation of authority. It is as inevitable as the tides of the ocean. Every man under such conditions must come to see the value or he will not feel the authority. He must see how the Scripture teaching touches his own life wisely and helpfully, or he will neither care for its study nor listen to its exposition. What cannot be verified in experience, and does not when verified bring any good, will not—and it does not matter if it does not—interest men.

The Scriptures as a whole are adopted as an authority not because of any outside testimony to their inspiration. Some parts of the Scriptures are properly so accepted; but in the main their authority is like that of the multiplication table, or the fundamental rules of hygiene—they "work well" and "fit life to a T." This volume is a contribution to an experiential estimate of Ephesians.

When we meet a person for the first time we take in at a glance some of his general features; afterward his mental, moral, and spiritual characteristics. In these swift and almost unconscious studies there is a sifting out of things common to all men, and an