

**PUBLIC WORSHIP:  
THE BEST METHODS  
OF CONDUCTING IT**

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Public Worship: The Best Methods of Conducting It by J. Spencer Pearsall

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**J. SPENCER PEARSALL**

**PUBLIC WORSHIP:  
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# PUBLIC WORSHIP:

*The best methods of conducting it.*

BY THE

REV. J. SPENCER PEARSALL,

AUTHOR OF "THE CONSTITUTION OF APOSTOLIC CHURCHES," ETC.



THIRD EDITION.



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## P R E F A C E.



THE following pages owe their origin to a paper read by the Author at Sheffield, October 10, 1866, before the assembly of the Congregational Union. The book, however, is more than an expansion of the paper, as new related topics have been introduced. The importance of the subject may be inferred from its selection by the Committee, and from the general opinion expressed that the discussion of it was, to quote the language of one of the delegates, "long due, if not over due."

The Author has viewed the subject of public worship in its relation to the present age, and in doing so, has asked some few questions, which he feels himself unable to answer, but which he hopes will elicit the enlightened judg-

ment of others. In adopting this plan, he has not departed from the spirit of the resolution passed at the last meeting of the Union, "That the cordial thanks of this assembly be presented to the Rev. J. S. Pearsall, for the valuable and suggestive paper now read; that he be requested to place it at the disposal of the Committee for publication; and that *the subject is embraced be now open to frank and full discussion.*"

The writer would prefer to address his work, not to ministers of long experience (although they, knowing the difficulty of the task, might be among the most charitable of his readers), but to younger men commencing their ministry, for to such the criticisms could not appear personal, but as intended to prevent rather than correct faults. He is led to expect encouragement from this class of readers by the kind reception which he met with some years since, when giving an address on public worship before the professors and students of a ministerial college.

Improvement in our public worship depends upon laymen, as well as upon ministers. The



contents of this book are therefore respectfully addressed to all office-bearers in the churches ; to all, indeed, who take an active part in prayer-meetings and other public religious services, as, happily, pious laymen are wont to do in the present day.

Public worship, whilst expressing the grand distinctive truths of the Gospel, should be catholic in its spirit and promotive of union. It is, therefore, scarcely necessary to say that this book is not denominational.

Some of the strictures may seem to condemn him who has written them ; but it is with authorship as with preaching, that if a man never taught until he came up to his own ideal, he would for ever remain a useless mute. The wish that ministerial life could be commenced anew, with its later-gathered experiences, is vain ; better is the resolution to "set up way-marks" for the warning and encouragement of others who may follow.

### THIRD EDITION.



THE Author is grateful to his Master for the hearty reception of his book by ministers and laymen of different denominations, and for instances of its usefulness. He is encouraged by knowing that the book has been read in the family, the college class-room, and at the prayer-meeting by the pastor; and that some ministers have commended by their example the practice of giving the volume a thorough perusal, and afterwards referring to it occasionally as a remembrancer.

Owing to the liberality of some influential laymen, several hundred copies have been presented to the ministerial colleges of different denominations in England, Scotland, and Wales.

*Preface.*

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The Author gratefully acknowledges letters of encouragement from the professors and students.

This new edition, including many additional paragraphs, is now respectfully submitted to the attention of the Churches, with the request that the Author may have their prayers for a blessing on his effort.

LONDON, 1869.