

**SIMPLICITY IN
PREACHING, A FEW
SHORT HINTS ON
A GREAT SUBJECT**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649317714

Simplicity in preaching, a few short hints on a great subject by John Charles Ryle

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

JOHN CHARLES RYLE

**SIMPLICITY IN
PREACHING, A FEW
SHORT HINTS ON
A GREAT SUBJECT**

SIMPLICITY IN PREACHING.

A FEW SHORT HINTS ON A
GREAT SUBJECT.

BY
JOHN CHARLES RYLE, D.D.,

LORD BISHOP OF LIVERPOOL.

Author of "Expository Thoughts on the Gospels," etc.



LONDON:
WILLIAM HUNT AND COMPANY,
12, PATERNOSTER ROW.

1882.

141. n. 176.

The substance of this paper was originally addressed, as a lecture, to a clerical audience, at St. Paul's Cathedral, on behalf of the Homiletical Society.

For a certain roughness and abruptness of style I must apologize. But my readers must kindly remember that the lecture was spoken and not written, and is prepared for the press from the notes of a short-hand writer.

In the hope that it may prove useful to some of my younger brethren in the Ministry, it is now published in its present form.

J. C. LIVERPOOL.

October 1st, 1882.



SIMPLICITY IN PREACHING.

KING SOLOMON says, in the book of Ecclesiastes, "Of making many books there is no end." (Eccles. xii. 12.) There are few subjects about which that saying is more true than that of *preaching*. The volumes which have been written in order to show ministers how to preach are enough to make a small library. In sending forth one more little treatise, I only propose to touch one branch of the subject. I do not pretend to consider what should be the substance and matter of a sermon. I purposely leave alone such points as "gravity, unction, liveliness,

warmth," and the like, or the comparative merits of written or extempore sermons. I wish to confine myself to one point, which receives far less attention than it deserves. That point is *simplicity* in language and style.

I ought to be able to tell my readers something about "simplicity," if experience will give any help. I began preaching forty years ago, when I first took orders, in a poor rural parish, and a great portion of my ministerial life has been spent in preaching to labourers and farmers. I know the enormous difficulty of preaching to such hearers, of making them understand one's meaning, and securing their attention. So far as concerns language and composition, I deliberately say that I would rather preach before the University at Oxford or Cambridge, or the Temple, or Lincoln's Inn, or the Houses of Parliament,

than I would address an agricultural congregation on a fine hot afternoon in the month of August. I have heard of a labourer who enjoyed Sunday more than any other day in the week,—“Because,” he said, “I sit comfortably in church, put up my legs, have nothing to think about, and just go to sleep.” Some of my younger friends in the ministry may some day be called to preach to such congregations as I have had, and I shall be glad if they can profit by my experience.

Before entering on the subject, I wish to clear the way by making four prefatory remarks.

(a) For one thing, I ask all my readers to remember that to attain simplicity in preaching is *of the utmost importance* to every minister who wishes to be useful to souls. Unless you are simple in your sermons you will never