

**LECTURES ON PREACHING, AND THE  
SEVERAL BRANCHES OF THE  
MINISTERIAL OFFICE, INCLUDING  
THE CHARACTERS OF THE MOST  
CELEBRATED MINISTERS AMONG  
DISSENTERS AND IN THE ESTABLISHMENT**

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Lectures on Preaching, and the Several Branches of the Ministerial Office, Including the Characters of the Most Celebrated Ministers Among Dissenters and in the Establishment by Philip Doddridge

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**PHILIP DODDRIDGE**

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BY PHILIP DODDRIDGE, D.D.

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## ADVERTISEMENT.



THE following Lectures on Preaching, and the several branches of Ministerial office, are the substance of those delivered by Dr. *Doddrige* to his theological students; and have been greatly admired for the variety of useful observations and excellent rules which they contain; and also for the very striking characters therein delineated of the most eminent Divines, both in the Establishment and among Dissenters.

It is rather surprising, that these Lectures, so valuable in themselves, and useful to Ministers of every denomination, should not, till lately, have been made public; more especially as the number of manuscript copies in the hands of individuals is very considerable. The difference existing in the different copies, however, may be considered as a principal reason for their not appearing before in print. The generality of persons possessing copies,

having only transcribed what to them appeared most striking, very few, if any of such copies could be considered in themselves complete or fit for publication.

The respectable Editors of a complete edition of the Author's works, now publishing, (to whom we are indebted for the first appearance of these Lectures,) inform us, "that for the purpose of collation, they procured *four* copies; one transcribed (bearing date 1739) by a learned pupil of the Author,—another revised and corrected from a copy declared to be the most accurate extant,—a third beautifully and accurately written, and the fourth, a transcript, which differs considerably from each of the others. The Editors are of opinion, however, that could they have procured ten times the number of copies, and those of the first character, it would be unsafe to trust any one of them as unquestionable; for it does not appear that the Author gave the finishing hand to his own copy as fit for the public eye. The reader, therefore, is requested to observe, that what is here printed, professes to be only a pretty full *syllabus* of what the Author more or less enlarged upon. The Lectures are so printed also, as to convey by means of a *dash*, some idea of the place and nature of

the supplementary enlargements which might be made. This dash may serve as a proper pause for the reader's profitable reflection. Since different copies have different *signs* of method, it is presumed that the plan here adopted is as perspicuous and useful as any.

“ We view them as possessing very considerable excellence; an excellence not inferior to any thing the Doctor ever penned, if estimated according to their tendency to do real service both to ministers, and, through them, to succeeding generations. Here we have a collection of rules, maxims, and cautions relative to preaching and the pastoral care, as ample and well chosen as any that are to be found; delivered with the greatest perspicuity, and minutely detailed according to varied circumstances. In them we discover a great insight into human nature, an uniform regard to religious, moral and civil propriety of conduct, ardent wishes to benefit mankind by promoting vital and practical religion; with marks of uncommon diligence in the Author himself, which may operate as a powerful stimulus on the reader's mind to imitate so fair an example.”

From a report of their general worth many have wished, but in vain, to procure a copy;



to gratify the desire of those who are not in possession of the edition of the Doctor's invaluable works mentioned above, these Lectures are now printed separately; and it is hoped they will be found particularly useful to the young student in divinity, and may, perhaps, be perused with some advantage by those who are more advanced in the important work of the ministry.

LONDON,  
*July 24, 1804.*

# LECTURES

ON

## PREACHING, AND THE MINISTERIAL OFFICE.

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### LECTURE 1.

Introduction—General Remarks and Directions relative to the  
Christian Ministry.

§ 1. GENTLEMEN, you have devoted yourselves to the work of the MINISTRY, and it is the main thing you have in view, in the course of your present studies; other things are taken in only as subservient to this.—You well know it consists of several branches. The first on which you enter is PREACHING, which, though not the only, is one of the most important parts of a minister's duty.—Preaching requires genius, application and the divine blessing.—Of the former, few who are capable of academical studies are *entirely* destitute.—Nor is any great *height* of genius necessary.—The latter with a good intention and pious conduct may be expected.—Diligence, therefore, is generally the main thing wanting; yet this under a wrong conduct may turn to little account.—To prevent which the following advices are designed, recommending the success to the Spirit of God.

§ 2. In these lectures I shall give some general directions as to the method to be used in order to furnish yourselves for, and make you ready in the work, (*Lect. I.*) Consider the character of the best practical writers in our language, (*Lect. 2—4.*) Give some advice as to the composition of sermons. (*Lect. 5—10.*) Offer some thoughts on the most proper method of delivery, (*Lect. 11.*) Add several miscellaneous remarks which will not properly fall under any of these heads, (*Lect. 12.*) Propose a few directions for prayer, (*Lect. 13.*) Call your attention to the important duty of public exposition, (*Lect. 14—16.*) Then offer some directions on catechising, (*Lect. 17. 18.*) On administering the ordinance of baptism, (*Lect. 19.*) and the Lords Supper, (*Lect. 20.*) On visiting in general, and the sick in particular, (*Lect. 21. 22.*) I shall then give you some general maxims for conversation, (*Lect. 23.*) Rules for conduct towards particular persons, (*Lect. 24.*) And on behavior to other ministers, with a few miscellaneous concluding remarks, (*Lect. 25.*)

§ 3. I shall begin with some *general directions* to furnish you for the work of the ministry, and prepare you for the exercise of its functions.

§ 4. 1. See to it that there be a foundation of sincere piety laid in yourselves, or else there is but little prospect of your being useful or acceptable to others.—Be therefore firmly resolved to devote yourselves to God, and do it solemnly.