

ORDINATION SERMON by DR. ALLAN A. MAC RAE, 14 March 1956

I looked to the Lord for the subject which would be His will for this ordination service, and I feel that it is His desire that I should take this theme, "The Compulsion of the Ministry". For the text, I shall take the last half of I. Corinthians 9:16 -- I'll read the whole verse, and then read again the last half:-

For though I preach the gospel, I have nothing to glory of: for necessity is laid upon me: yea, woe is unto me, if I preach not the gospel!

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The compulsion of the ministry.

I think that being Presbyterians you would be disappointed if I didn't divide this into three heads, and consequently I shall take for the first head, the compulsion as exemplified in the apostle Paul.

If we are to look through history and through the Scripture for an example for our lives, we probably will nowhere find a more satisfactory example to take than the example of the apostle Paul. Someone immediately says, No, Christ is our example; and, of course, that is true -- Christ is the perfect one. But, there's something discouraging about trying to emulate Him, the Perfect One. We must do it. We must hold Him up, and follow Him and no man, yes. But ~~there's~~ there's something discouraging: we fall so far short of the example of our Lord. We want to follow in His steps, yes; and we need His power to follow in His steps, but we'll follow a long ways behind. And we try to seek to come into the image of the Lord Jesus Christ, yes, and that's our ideal, and no other is our ideal. But we're encourag~~ed~~ and stimulated