## THE GLORY OF THE MINISTRY; PAUL'S EXULTATION IN PREACHING

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The glory of the ministry; Paul's exultation in preaching by A. T. Robertson

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### The Glory of the Ministry

Paul's Exultation in Preaching



By

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To

The REV. JAMES STALKER, M. A., D. D. Professor in the United Free Church College, Aberdeen, Preacher, Teacher, Inspirer of Preachers



### Preface

T is now a good many years since the beauty of Paul's apologetic for preaching in 2 Corinthians ii. 12-vi. 10 made its first appeal to me. As with much that has entered my life, it was the close study of the Greek text with a class in Greek exegesis that first gripped my heart with this noble panegyric on the ministry of the servants of Jesus Christ. It is not mere rhapsody on Paul's part, but a magnificent exposition of the preacher's task from every point of view. I have made it my duty and joy to present this lofty spiritual interpretation of the minster's work to succeeding classes of theological students. Last November in South Carolina I made an address on "The Glory of the Ministry" as presented by Paul in this passage. It brought cheer and hope to the hearts of some of the toilers for Christ to the extent that a number of them privately asked me to write a little book on the subject. 1 have not been able to get away from this appeal. My life is constantly with ministers. I know much of the struggles, ambitions, hopes, joys, and disappointments of preachers of the Gospel, both young

#### PREFACE

and old. The lines have not fallen in pleasant places for all of them. They are subject to much misunderstanding. Modern and public opinion is distinctly critical, if not at times harsh, towards the minister. It is not always easy in an unsympathetic atmosphere to preserve the right spirit and to see things as they really are. I have written this book out of love for preachers of the Gospel of Jesus. Some one may find tonic and ozone, as he comes close to the heart of his mission and life, in Paul's bracing words. Some, for whom the ministry no longer has the old charm, may recover their first love. Some, who have been disposed to speak unkindly of ministers as a class, may be led to revise their judgment. Some young men, who look out on the wonderful modern world, may catch a glimpse of the light in the face of Jesus, as did Paul on the road to Damascus, and yield to the appeal in that Face for a world lost in sin, a world that calls for interpreters of Jesus. I pray that the Spirit of Christ may go with this little book and take it where it is needed. The volume is not a mere exposition of Paul's own glorving in the ministry, though that is the heart of it. Paul's grand conception is related to modern ideas of the ministry by sufficient use of the great writers of our time on the preacher's problems. These are shown to share Paul's enthusiasm. The

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