

**OBJECT SERMONS IN
OUTLINE,
WITH NUMEROUS
ILLUSTRATIONS**

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Object sermons in outline, with numerous illustrations by C. H. Tyndall

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C. H. TYNDALL

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IN OUTLINE

WITH NUMEROUS ILLUSTRATIONS

BY

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INTRODUCTION BY REV. A. F. SCHAUFFLER, D.D.



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INTRODUCTION.

MUCH has been said and written about the use of the eye in impressing spiritual truth on an audience. But in spite of all the talk on this matter, outside of the Sunday-school little has been done, chiefly because many have not known how to get to work to enlist the eyes of their hearers. Pastors have acknowledged the power of object sermons, and have wished that they could prepare them, but have not felt that they dared launch out in this line of effort.

I am persuaded that we all have much to learn in the direction of using things material to impress things spiritual on the minds of our hearers. In any secular lecture, we see scientific men making just as constant use of the eye as possible, and we recognize that this is one of the sources of the delight that is experienced in listening to what they have to say, and one great means by which we remember that to which we have listened. While the lecturer is appealing to the eye, and at the same time is explaining what he shows, to the ear, he has the undivided attention of all in his audience. It is simply impossible to be carried away by wandering thoughts, while eye and ear are both being appealed to by the speaker. Since these are facts that no one contraverts, why should we not avail ourselves of the same methods in our pulpit utterances, and, by the use of both of our most rapid senses, do all we can to impress the truth on our hearers? If our Master preached from the text of a little child held in His arms, or taught the duty of humility by actually waiting on the table, why should we be so fritical that we cannot lay aside our dignity, and use any method that will impress the truth on others? I am by no means advocating such a use of objects as shall merely attract attention to themselves and thus overlay the truth, for to do that is folly. But there is a most legitimate way of using material objects, and to that I desire to call renewed attention. Having myself used this kind of preaching and having found it helpful in a spiritual way, I can all the more heartily commend it to others.

The book for which I have written these few words by way of an introduction, is by my good friend Rev. C. H. Tyndall, the pastor of the Broome Street Tabernacle, of New York. Some of the sermons I have had the privilege of hearing, and I can bear witness to their spiritual effect on the audience. Of others I have the witness of those who have heard them, that they chained the attention of the audience and resulted in much good. They are worked out under the rules of Christian common-sense, which must govern here, as in all Christian work. It is the lack of just this "sixth sense" that has discredited so much of the blackboard and object work in this land. The reader will here find no folly that is calculated to repel him.

Of course, in the delivery of these sermons some practice will be found needful; but that is the case with everything good that is also new. But very soon any man with ordinary common-sense will find that the work becomes not only easy, but pleasant as well, and his audience will be delighted with the result. This will be especially true of the young people, who will flock to such services when the ordinary sermon fails to attract them. Some trouble is requisite in the preparation for a few of these sermons; but if any man wants a good thing without trouble, he is forever doomed to disappointment. The better a thing is, as a rule, the harder it is to attain. It is very easy to be stupid, but to be bright costs effort.

I would suggest that a right use of the sermons given in this book would be, not to preach them all on consecutive Sunday evenings, but to have an evening a month known as "Object-Sermon Sunday," and to advertise it as such, so that your people may know what they are to expect. If things go with the reader as they have with the writer, he will find that on that evening he will always have the largest audience of the month.

Finally, after having gained some facility in the use of the material thus prepared by another, let the preacher begin to prepare his own object sermons, beginning with simple ones, and going on to those that are more complex. At the same time let him remember, it is the simple things that are the most powerful. Simplicity, therefore, should be studied at all times, for in it there is power.

A. F. SCHAUFFLER.

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