

A Prayer before Preaching

Jeremiah Trundle (Puritan Divine, Great Casterton, Rutland, 1647)

Oh Lord, through the bowels of thy great mercy we beseech thee on the behalf of this thy humble servant who has chosen to deliver unto us an homily on the grounds that he fondly assumeth that the vision, of which he speaketh, hath been vouchsafed unto him by Thee, despite the fact that he beareth the impediment of one mighty baulk of timber thrust into one eye and also a second, like unto it, in the twain, although he chooseth to conceal this fact from us by the wearing of darkened spectacles.

For we know Lord, that being led by him we may possibly, nay probably, nay almost certainly fall, in a most precipitate manner, into a DYTCH; and that this will be a dytch that brimmeth with one full fathom (yea six feet, yea 1.8 metres) of water that stinketh and in which is all manner of noysome uncleannesse, yea even unto a dead dogge!

And we will thus be reminded, Lord, that outside of your grace, through the foulness of our flesh and perversity of our hearts we ourselves are naught but dead dogges and loathsome wormes,

Amen