

them are engaged by their churches for the whole of their time, thus leaving eight ministers—including several who are infirm—to labour among *thirty* churches; many of which must, therefore, have been destitute of regular pastoral labour for some time past. Perhaps some of the wealthiest of them have obtained the services of a minister for a portion of the time, but it is greatly to be feared that a large proportion of the feeblest have been entirely destitute of preaching and pastoral oversight. Now, a Christian community that cannot sustain a pastor for any portion of his time must be classed among the weak churches. But because it is weak is no reason why it should be left to dwindle away and die. If it be a church of Christ, composed of regenerated men and women possessing spiritual vitality, they will not be content to sit still and fold their arms in indolence. If any have already done so, we commend to their notice the Apostolic injunction, "Awake thou that sleepest and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give thee light." Their first duty to their Lord, to the world, and to themselves, is plain. They must help *themselves*. That man is considered unworthy of assistance who is unwilling to help himself to the best of his ability: "Heaven helps those who help themselves." And we have it upon the authority of an apostle, "that if any will not work, neither shall he eat." Now, what is true of individuals is also true of churches. No church can live and prosper without an effort to sustain itself. It is impossible to estimate the vast amount of good that may be accomplished by a Christian community that sets itself to work for God, is loyal to principles and consistent with the profession it makes. We can point to several of our prosperous churches as an answer to any enquiry of the doubting on this point; in fact, we cannot find a single church that has *not* attained its present efficiency through its energetic and persistent work for Christ. We cannot expect men to believe that our professions are genuine or our principles as Baptists of very much importance unless we are consistent, faithful, and seek to disseminate the important truths which distinguish us from others. In this matter the promise holds good, "Them that honor me I will honor."

If there are but a few Baptists in any community, let them make themselves known to each other, and to the world, meet together for mutual comfort and edification. If they have no meeting-house, let them meet together from house to house on the Sabbath, and as frequently during the week as circumstances will permit. Let them encourage visits from ministers of the *denomination to which they belong*, and even though they may not be able to give full pecuniary remuneration for such services they will nevertheless be cheerfully rendered to those who show that they love the truth and are prepared to defend it. For a church to neglect its stated meetings is a shame and a disgrace, so long as there are brethren and sisters to meet together. The grass growing in the place where the path should be that leads to the door of the house of God is a stand-