

In connection with this we would add that it is the duty of all who enjoy the privileges of the ministry to sustain them in their work. "The laborer" says God "is worthy of his hire." His support is to be given him not as a gratuity but as his just due. The same God calls them to the ministry, and requires them to be faithful in it, also calls you to sustain them, and if you do not meet the obligation, and that fully and promptly you are defrauding them and disobeying God, and by thus throwing discouragements in the way of the Christian Ministry you are guilty of a most dreadful and enormous sin. It is a fearful thing to stand in the way of God's purposes. When God calls his ministers to the honorable and glorious work of uniting with him in the conversion of the world, he calls you to sustain them in it. If you by neglecting your duty, prevent them from doing their's, the call of God is made of none effect, his will is set at nought, his plans of operation are thwarted, and his declarative glory is consequently diminished. He works *by* means, not *without* them. His Spirit does not go before the word, but it is promised to accompany it. How great then is the guilt of those who hinder the Gospel by refusing to sustain its heralds? What must be the result of this contest with one's Maker?

In conclusion let us add it is not only your duty to sustain the ministry by your means but also by your prayers for them at the throne of grace. If it is a sin to keep back the former; if it is wrong to withhold the less it is wrong to withhold the greater. If an inspired apostle said "brethren pray for us" much more truly and emphatically may those who make no claim to inspiration say "brethren pray for us." "We speak as unto wise men, judge ye what we say."