

I intended to have closed the account of my visit to the Churches in the present number, but find that it will take more space than I can at present occupy, and therefore I shall conclude in next issue.

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A GIFT TO THE LORD.

"First gave their own selves to the Lord" ii Cor. viii. 5.

The first duty of every human being is to give himself to the Lord. Until this duty is attended to, no other duty can be rightly done.

1. We should give ourselves *to the Lord*. Many give themselves to the world; the powers of their bodies and minds are exerted purely for this world, and its perishing treasures. Many give themselves up to be ruled by the goddess of fashion. Many give themselves up to sin, and glory in their shame, working all uncleanness with greediness. But here is a claimant for our souls, who ought not to be turned away. The Lord seeks you that you may give yourselves to him. On what are his claims founded? Are there good reasons why you should give yourselves to him? There are the best of reasons; you should give him your affection and homage and service because he is your Creator, Preserver, Bountiful Benefactor and Redeemer. Consider the relations he sustains to you, realize your dependence on him, and you will see it to be right and reasonable that you should give yourselves to him.

2. This duty implies that God has opened up a way whereby he can receive us. As a wanderer from God, the sinner is under condemnation—deserving of, and subject to, punishment. Unless a way had been opened up by God whereby he could receive us, it would be impossible for us to give ourselves to him. Therefore as it is our duty to give ourselves to him there must be a way back into his favour. Jesus is the way. He atoned for sin. He satisfied divine justice. God can receive sinners! Glory to his name!

3. It implies that he has provided means whereby sinners may be induced to give themselves to him, and whereby they may be purified and fitted to enjoy and serve him. The Holy Spirit is the great agent appointed by the Father to lead sinners to give themselves to him. He is the purifier of the souls that yield to his grace. He sanctifies by and through the truth about Jesus.

4. The duty of giving ourselves to God proceeds on the assump-