

kept. The Lord does not favor loose business methods of dealing with Him. "Let every one of you lay by him in store."

This principle in practice makes giving systematic, easy, and a real pleasure.—*Gospel in all Lands.*

PAYING AND GIVING.

When a member of the Church contributes to the support of a minister of the Gospel, whether effective or superannuated, let him understand that he is not *giving* anything to God nor to God's cause, but is simply *paying* a just debt.

Moreover, the minister of the Gospel has just as much legal right in the sight of heaven to demand his "living" from the people to whom he ministers as the merchant has to demand the payment of his bill, or the doctor to demand the payment of his fee; nor is this payment of a living to the minister to be any more regarded as "giving to the Lord" or his cause than the payment of the merchant's bill or the doctor's fee, or any other just debt. We have not begun to *give* until we have gone *beyond* what is needed to support our own local church.

In the maintenance of our ministry and houses of worship we are simply paying for what we cannot do without unless we are willing to lapse into the moral and religious darkness of heathendom, and suffer unspeakable loss to all eternity. There is not even a *semblance* of giving in any of this. It is simply the purchase of a necessity.

We begin to give only when we reach the point of bestowing where there is no apparent return of benefit or no obligation of reciprocity. When we speak of our contributions to foreign missions we may say that we have *given* just so much to the Lord, but we have certainly "given" nothing in paying the preacher his salary, and meeting the running expenses of our houses of worship.—*Gospel in all Lands.*

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"There could be no salvation for man unless God gave; and now that he has given, there can be no Christian life, no assimilation to God unless man exercise himself in the same grace."

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"To be like God is the lofty aim and highest reach of grace. But he who would be like Him must go out in every force of nature in benevolent ministry."

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"It is the divine order that our benevolence should be appealed to. God could do without our money, but money is a vital thing in human character and destiny, and we cannot do without the blessing the giving away of it confers. It is not because He is poor that He would have His people give, but because we are."

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"The question of 'how much?' is an inquiry that frequently detracts from the blessedness of giving. It often means 'How little?'"

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"What society demands and what the Lord demands are two widely different things. Which is the more important, to sustain our position before God or before society?"

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"The poorest widow on earth, the poorest Christian upon earth, has something to 'pay and give;' if not dollars, cents; if not cents, then some other offering—work, prayer, zeal, all have something; 'according to that a man hath, not according to that he hath not.'"

"The poverty of the poorest as well as the affluence of the richest has a ministry to fulfil. The only encomiums the Lord bestows on givers have been on those the abundance of whose poverty abounded to the riches of their liberality"

Systematic and Proportionate Giving.

WE pray "Thy Kingdom come," we ask God to hasten that day when the millions now dwelling in the shadow of heathen darkness shall have entered into the glorious light of the Gospel, but too many of us, alas, ignore the fact that the answer to our prayer involves giving on the part of the Church—giving, not spasmodically, not as the result of mere sentiment, or a passing enthusiasm for missions, but systematic, proportionate, self-sacrificing giving according to the principles laid down by God himself.

If the ancient Jew, with his inferior privileges, with his exclusive system of worship, gave at least one-tenth of his income supplemented by large free-will offerings, surely the Church of Christ to-day, exalted to Heaven as she is in point of privilege, and charged with the overwhelming responsibility of evangelizing the world, surely she ought not to regard her duty concerning the property trust to be fulfilled while she falls so far short of the lowest standard of the Jew. We have not been left in the dark as to what proportion of our wealth God requires. One-tenth of the land, whether of the seed of the land, or of the fruit of the tree, is the Lord's: it is holy unto the Lord." (Lev. xxvii. 30.) The tenth then of our income is a debt which we owe to God, and which must be paid before we can in the true sense of the word give anything to His cause.

The law of giving, like all other Divine laws, is framed in the highest interests of the subject, and to refuse to obey it is indeed criminal. God, in rebuking the Jews through His prophet Malachi for their apostasy, accused them of robbing Him in withholding tithes and offerings. He commands them to bring all the tithes into the storehouse, promising wonderful blessing if they would obey. This promise was not for the Jews only, but for all who should comply with the conditions. If the Church to-day would only realize the responsibility of her stewardship, and act in conformity with the divinely appointed laws of giving, then should we see, both in the Church at home and in the mission fields abroad, such mighty manifestations of the Divine power in rescuing souls from the bondage of sin, from the fetters of heathenism, as would cause Heaven and earth to echo and re-echo with songs of praise and thanksgiving unto Him who died for our salvation.

HATTIE E. WOODSWORTH.

WE continue our *special offer* for this month, by which we will send the CAMPAIGNER to any address from now until next July for 10 cents. Please examine our premium list on last page, which we print at the request of a subscriber.

WHEN this number of our paper reaches our subscribers our campaign for this summer will be practically ended—at least for those students who return to college. Those who are on circuits we trust will still take every opportunity of forming League bands for missionary prayer and giving. They can also greatly advance and strengthen the work already commenced by assisting in the preparation for meetings and study classes.