

minister and elders and assume responsibilities and duties in connection with the church's gifts, and contributions, and financial affairs generally. Elders and Deacons can do, *officially*, nothing which, if supposed to be acting directly, the church as a body could not properly do; and can do, *officially* and *regularly*, nothing which by the Word is made the peculiar and solemn duty of the minister.

11. Their relation to each other and to the church requires all the officers to work with one heart and one mind, and the church to own and co-operate with them all. The special functions of their several offices are different but complementary. Each needs the others, and the church needs them all and must own and co-operate with them all in order to the full realization of its privileges and prerogatives and the proper discharge of its duties.

### OF WHAT USE ARE YOU?

God has sent us all to the world for some wise purpose. There is something for us to do, and He commands us to do it. Our work lies before us; we can see what is expected of us, and we can attend to it without delay. No life has been made in vain. The past had a purpose; the present and the future have their purpose and meaning for every one of us. God commands, exhorts, entreats the sinner to repent and live. He sends His people into His vineyard to work for Him, maybe for a whole day--maybe for one short hour: it matters not so long as the heart is loyal and the hand active.

God gives you His one talent, or His five, or ten talents. You may use them well, and your reward is great, overwhelming, immeasurable. But if you lay them by "in a napkin," God still knows how to use you and your talent to His own glory. The wicked man, the unprofitable servant, will be used as a warning to others. His trial and doom will be recorded for the instruction of succeeding generations. If, therefore, you do not meet God's ends lovingly as a Christian, He has the power and the will to use you as a "vessel of wrath"

to show in your person His hatred of sin, of laziness, of unprofitableness.

The choice is before us all. It is certain that God will make use of us in one or other of these ways: we must show forth the glory of His grace in our salvation, or the glory of His righteous judgment in our eternal ruin. If we are "*unprofitable servants*," we must share the lot of such forever.

Let us examine our lives in the light of this solemn and awful truth. Each one has but one life; and this we must give either to God, or to God's enemy—to the Church or to the world—to self or to Christ. All depends on the use we make of this short but awful day, before the night cometh when no man can work.

Christ is waiting for you to come to help Him. He offers to strengthen you with His love and to give you His spirit. He has a vast amount of work to do in this world, and He asks you to do it with Him. Your congregation needs your active aid. You can help us in the Sabbath School. You can strengthen the hands of others. You can give back what God has given you in such proportion as love shall dictate. You know your "talent;" and that is precisely the talent which you are called upon to use.

Some are of great use even on the sick-bed. Their patience under suffering is a precious lesson. They testify to the Divine love in the furnace of affliction. From many a dying bed come priceless legacies of triumphant faith. Some are privileged to spend long years in the active service of God promoting His glory and the happiness of men. We can do our work, although we may occupy no official position in the Church. Ministers and Elders are indeed specially bound to be "profitable" servants; but every Christian, young and old, weak and strong, will find scope for every sanctified energy. It is when all do their duty unitedly that the Kingdom of Christ shall win its victories. A faithful, loving Christian life is more eloquent than many a sermon—more edifying than many a learned volume.

Ask yourself, dear reader, these ques-