

But have we been honest with ourselves and with God? or have we Ananias-like "kept back part of the price?" Let us look at the question in several important respects:—

1. In regard to our Time.

When we professed conversion, joined the church and made a public acknowledgment of our faith, what did we mean, what did the church mean, and what did the world understand by it all? Why, that henceforth all our energies, our strivings, our yearnings should be for God—in fact that our entire days should be devoted to His service. It implied that we intended to be more careful for our souls than for our bodies, more anxious for heaven than for the world, more desirous of pleasing God than of pleasing man. Was it not so? Most undoubtedly it was. Have we then been true to our profession, or have we been "keeping back?" O, it is a solemn question to ask and to ponder. Here am I, a professing Christian, professing to be a child of God, an heir of Heaven, and a pilgrim to another country, publicly acknowledging to have consecrated my time wholly to God, and yet alas! how often have I robbed God by "keeping back part of the price!"

Have we spent all the time in prayer and praise demanded by our profession? Have we given as much of our time to those little acts of mercy and to those little errands of love as is implied in such a consecration? If not, have we not Ananias-like "kept back part of the price?" Let us to our knees—and seek forgiveness.

"O let us all the time redeem,
And henceforth live and die to Him."

2. In regard to our Talents.

God has given us talents for the proper use of which we are responsible. While the majority may believe this, very few act as if it were true. But we who profess Christ have publicly acknowledged a full and entire consecration of all these to God's service. Just as deliberately as Ananias went to the Apostles and professed to lay down the "whole price of the land." So we have come to the cross and have professed to lay all these talents at the feet of Jesus, to be used only for his glory. Have we fulfilled our pledge; or have we "kept back part of the price?" With our lips we sing—

"I only for His glory live,
I only for His glory burn."