

the just scale of Christian giving in the order which he sent to the Churches of Galatia and Corinth: "Upon the first day of the week let EVERY ONE OF YOU lay by him in store, *as God hath prospered him.*" This is the written rule. It is fulfilled no less by those who, unable to strike a weekly balance, lay by them in store, *year by year*, according to their gains or income. The motive which impels the Christian to generosity—the impulse which constrains him to make sacrifices for mankind—is that which is embodied in the words, "Ye are not your own, for ye are bought with a price."

We exhort you, beloved brethren, to apply these general principles to your own character and practice. We do so the more, because they are the principles by which you will be tested and dealt with, in the Last day. How many of you make a conscience of giving? How many sit down for the purpose of measuring by the gifts which they receive "from above," the extent of their responsibility to lay out money for the poor and for the advancement of religion? Few amongst us strive against their native selfishness. Few set themselves to reach the self-denying standard of Christian piety. May it not, indeed, be feared that some of those who "name the Name of Christ" in the Sacrament of the Supper, are going down to the grave laden with the frightful guilt of "covetousness which is idolatry?" Those who "watch for your souls" feel that at least there are grounds for urging upon you self-examination in regard to this solemn matter. It cannot be safe for any man whom God blesses with competence, much less for him to whom plenty is vouchsafed, to add stock to stock, store to store, farm to farm, and at the same time to grudge to the poor the help which they need; or to refuse to sustain those Christian Ordinances by which his household are blessed; or to withhold the means of sending to neglected ones the Gospel of