

Charles II., but for more than two hundred years it has remained untouched. Anyone who goes to Scotland or America will find liturgies which have been drawn from our own; and the sun never goes down on the lands where the Holy Sacrifice is offered in the English tongue.—*Mary Bell.*

### HOW MUCH SHALL I GIVE?

“He left all, rose up, and followed Him.”

—*S. Luke V. 27.*

Our giving should be—

1. *In proportion to our means.* Proportionate giving seems to have been the rule laid down by God, and acted upon by good people from the earliest times. We can trace it through all the Dispensations. Probably in the Adamic, certainly in the Patriarchal, Jewish and Christian; and the proportion seems to have been a tenth of all their increase or income. Abraham gave a tenth of the spoils to Melchizedek, priest of the Most High God. (Gen. xiv. 20). Jacob solemnly vowed that he would consecrate to God a tenth of all He should give him. (Gen. xxviii. 22). The Jews gave to the Levites a tenth of their yearly income. (Numbers xxviii. 21); and once in three years they gave an additional tenth for the feasts and the poor. (Deut. xiv. 28, 29.) And although in the New Testament a tenth is not *directly* specified, proportionate giving undoubtedly is; for when S. Paul is making a collection for the poor, he directs each donor to give “*as God hath prospered him.*”

2. And while our giving should be proportionate, it should not be withheld until actually asked for, but it should be *set apart* or *laid up*, as the

Lord's portion, for religious and charitable uses. “Let every one of you,” said the Apostle, “*lay by him in store.*” (1 Cor. xvi. 2.) The observance of this rule would give us a little capital to draw on when appeals are made to our charity, and make our giving much more easy and pleasant than it otherwise might be. To many giving money is not a pleasant task.

3. Moreover, the performance of this duty should not be occasional, but *habitual*. Not by fits and starts according to the impulse of our feelings, but at stated and regular times. *Weekly offerings* are recommended by S. Paul, who told the primitive Christians to lay up their gifts of charity “upon the first day of the week.” This advice, should, if possible, be followed out, but if not, then at some other regular occurring time, offerings should be made.

4. And observe, this should be done *cheerfully*. It should not be regarded as a disagreeable task, which we grudge to perform, but as a privilege—which, indeed, it is—and we should perform it as a pleasure. The Apostle saith, “Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loveth a cheerful giver.” (Cor. ix. 7.)

—*Rev. T. J. Bass.*

I find that it conduces to my mental health and happiness to find out all I can which is amiable and lovable in those I come in contact with, and to make the most of it. . . . It keeps the heart alive in its humanity, and till we shall be all spiritual this is alike our duty and our interest.—*Moravian*

There are 2750 languages.