

ascertain at once the will of God on this subject. Paul, in 1 Cor. ix. 11, shows the reasonableness of sustaining preachers of the gospel, and the smallness of refusing to them a generous support. If, says the Apostle, we have sown unto you spiritual things, is it a great thing if we shall reap your carnal things? If the rich, and glorious, and permanent blessings of God's word and ordinances, are scattered abroad amongst the churches by men who have abandoned every earthly prospect for the single purpose of engaging in this work, is it "*a great thing*" that such sowers should reap from those to whom they minister, enough of the things that perish with the using, to keep them above mental anxiety? Those church members who think it "*a great thing*" to give a half or a two-third's supply of carnal things for a full supply of spiritual instruction, had need to look well to the state of their hearts: Inability to support the ministry is no sin on the part of any people; unwillingness to do so, is criminality, which will meet its own reward.

Covetousness may suggest, that the gospel should be preached without duly sustaining the laborer: but the Holy Spirit has given the following decision upon the matter, which (on the part of all those at least who acknowledge their obligation to bow to such authority) must be final. We read, 1 Cor. ix. 13, Do ye not know that they which minister about holy things, live of the things of the Temple; and they which wait at the altar are partakers with the altar? *Even so hath the Lord ORDAINED, that they which preach the gospel should live of the gospel.* Such is the divine law. A distinct and clear *appointment* of the Lord. Under the old dispensation, the priesthood were, by God's special direction, provided for, and it is worthy of notice, that a neglect to carry out this provision, at one period, brought upon Israel the terrible denunciation, "Ye are cursed with a curse." Under the new dispensation, God has also given special legislation for the support of the ministry, and a voluntary failure on the part of any church or individual to carry out the divine arrangement will, with a new emphasis, bring upon such delinquents the withering anathema of the prophet of Israel, "ye are cursed with a curse." Again the Apostle says, Gal. vi. 6,