

N.B.—If, in order that a Sunday School in a new and needy district may be started, a little assistance in the way of Lesson Helps and Illustrated Papers is required, write REV. J. C. ROBERTSON, B.D., our General Secretary for Sunday Schools, Confederation Life Building, Toronto. A three months' supply will be gladly sent.

Not Yours ; but You

By Rev. L. H. MacLean, M.A.

We are prone to misplace things. We often have wrong ideas of what our real need is. Thus it is commonly believed that commerce and property are our greatest needs, and consequently many pursue these as if they were the one all-important end of life. But when Paul expresses his conception of what he believes to be the world's special need, he says : "I seek not yours, but you." He well understood the power and value of worldly possessions. They were a necessity to progress. Money would be necessary in extending the kingdom of God and in carrying out its requirements, and he declares, "God loveth a cheerful giver." But he also knew of a greater and more necessary power,—*the power of a human life.*

Money and property have value only in so far as they enlist the gifts of men and women in carrying out a given enterprise. Human activities thus give meaning and value to all material things. This will readily be understood when we note that all existing conditions, either good or bad, are due to the part man has played in connection with them. Man alone influences his surroundings, and brings to pass the conditions which are found in any particular place. In the world, therefore, man, and not his possessions, is the important power.

Man being such, his development is the all-important pursuit. Hence the Apostle seeks him, that he may, through the gospel, be developed into a perfect man. For he believed that the realization of truth and righteousness in the world depended upon man's being directed aright. Moreover, only man, built up as the gospel directs, can show forth God's greatest achievement and glory. Because of this conception the Apostle puts

all his gifts into realizing in men the gospel ideal for mankind. It is thus men are blessed; and by their blessing bless the world and extend the kingdom of God, which can only be extended through the consecrated lives of men.

Since the apostle's time the world's needs have not much changed. If changed at all, it is only to make greater demands upon our best personal gifts and powers. If people know more to-day ; if they are more intelligent, and still sinners, it only means that we need even stronger mental gifts, and more of them, consecrated in order to influence these for the kingdom of our God and His Christ.

We know the gospel can influence and bless people as nothing else can ; but it needs more heralds and advocates. We need more men and women who will use their personal powers to present its truth, and advance the work for which Jesus gave His whole life. Our money cannot do the things for which the gospel stands ; nor that for which each church and congregation ought to stand. Man, with his gifts and graces, alone can do that.

The appeals of God's Word and of present day needs are for lives consecrated to the divine will, lives willing to be what He would have them to be, willing to go where He would have them to go, and willing to do what He would have them to do. When we thus dedicate ourselves to the greatest of all causes, our possessions will, in like manner, be at God's call. Then shall be reached the human condition which is the assurance of both the extension, and stability of the kingdom of God in the world.

Pictou, N.S.

Master of Life ! beneath whose eye
The labors of all workmen lie,
Write Thou upon Thy Book of Days
The work we render to Thy praise ;
Gladly we know, whate'er it be,
That we have done it unto Thee.

O Master Workman ! who hast toiled
O'er bench and plane, Thy garments soiled,
Shape in our hearts in will, in mind,
That manhood by Thyself designed,
That we may know, may feel, may see,
That we are laborers with Thee.