

O why should we neglect the other! Jesus said to his Apostles, "Go, teach all nations; baptizing them in (into) the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit." Did their labors cease here? Was this the end of their commission? Ah, no; read on. "Teaching them to observe *all things* whatsoever I have commanded you." Now shall we attend to the first and neglect the second? *Can* we do it with impunity? never. How many poor souls are lost in consequence of negligence on the part of the church regarding this second chapter of duties. But the reader may ask, have we not elders? There are no mere honorary titles in the Lord's government. While we gladly admit that there are churches which have overseers who do their duty, we regret to say there are many who have Brethren wearing the title—that's all. If a man cannot or will not perform the duties, let him by all means abandon the title. And there are many who have Brethren who act as elders, but who are so palpably disqualified that the church goes down; then the cry is let us have a pastor—a paid minister, as if this would make all right. There are Brethren who, for certain reasons, think they have an exclusive right to the office of overseer. They seem very impatient, and marvel why the Brethren do not at once appoint *them*. They will manage adroitly to throw obstacles in the way of others being named. 'Tis a pity that such mortals frequently find some unthinking and officious persons to rise up and name Brother so-and-so. Very likely he has not thought five minutes upon the subject, but wishing a little notoriety he names the man. The thing is too important to be trifled with thus. We do not debar that Brother the right to name any body he pleases, but we would simply say he ought, for the sake of propriety, be a little careful and patient. Churches will never thrive nor prosper when they have overseers who are disqualified. Better have none at all. One more thought and we are done. Is that church doing its duty in the sight of heaven, who will ask a Brother who has to labour hard to support his family, to act as overseer; I mean, to do his duty as overseer, and spend one, two or three months in the year of his time and *never offer to remunerate him!* "Do unto others as you would they should do to you" in the same circumstances is a good rule by which to be governed.

PHILEMON.

ARE WE DRIFTING?

'Tis to be feared in some quarters. Time was when, "thus saith the Lord," settled every question—when we studied and loved the Bible, when we were jealous of innovations, when we watched carefully and sedulously over the truth of Jesus. We rejoice to know that this is still the state of things in most of places among the "Disciples." If there is one thing which would cause us to love the venerable Brother Campbell more than another, it is his honest and unflinching adherence to the *word of God*. He fought manfully, courageously and triumphantly for the Bible. In the vigour of his life, when the truth made great men quail before it, that which stood out in boldest relief in Bro. Campbell's character might be couched in the following words:—*no compromise with error*. A noble stand. If there is anything of which a man could be innocently proud, it is such a position. A time-server, a go-between, could not long live amongst us. None but true men could work with the pioneers of what is called the "current reformation." But in some places, I fear the gold is becoming dim. The Egyptian flesh pots are thought of by some who wish to turn back. It is hard to propel the boat up stream, easier to let it go with the current, easier to cut the cable, take the sofa and let her drift. Saul once disagreed with the Lord. He thought he had a better way of managing matters—no use in being so strict in keeping the commandments. The spirit of obedience, a regard for the *essential* was all that human reason deemed necessary. As Samuel said "what meaneth the lowing of the oxen and the bleating of the sheep in mine ears?" So we would say, what mean the appropriation of "Rev." on the brass rapper, the white necktie, the melodeon, the organ, the high spire, the catering to practices of the sects? But more, are we not handling the word of God deceitfully? That man who keeps back any of it for fear of losing caste, who shrinks from declaring all the counsel of God is guilty. He may make friends but he will lose friends hereafter. Are there not some who are ashamed to speak of first principles? I do not say we should be teaching them and nothing else, but the poor sinner will never be right until he understands them, and many professors in consequence of not understanding them easily, stray away. If we become recreant to our high trust, God will