

that God wrought without means as well as with—that when in his Sovereign pleasure he was disposed to convert a soul he would do so—that the sinner was *made* willing in the day of his power, and then, notwithstanding this, your exertions for the conversion of your families and fellow citizens were as great as they are now, when you believe that where the Gospel is preached, sinners are wholly to blame for not being heirs of God and joint heirs with Jesus Christ.

Here, brethren, we are inconsistent with our profession. The sects expend more money, exhibit more zeal, and are making greater exertions to disseminate their opinions than we are for the spread of truth. Are not some of you who now read this, paying actually less for the spread of the Apostolic Gospel than you formerly did for the dissemination of Calvinism, Methodism or some other *ism*? Ought not our zeal and engagedness now far outstrip our former zeal and devotion? But some of us appear to be afraid to exhibit warmth now in our addresses because we see so much zeal without knowledge. But let it be remembered that our success as a people will be commensurate with our engagedness. As we have taken such high ground, the world have a right to expect more of us than of any other people. Our faith should overcome the world. And we should remember that when we gave ourselves to the Lord, we also dedicated our property, our time, talents, and all that we possessed. We are not our own. The first disciples who engaged in the service of the King, not only devoted all their property to the good of the church, but they all became preachers. I do not think that the present state of the church demands this of you now; but the cause in which we profess to be engaged calls for more funds, more honesty, more personal and family devotion, and more individual and Church zeal than any other cause under heaven, and I am constrained to confess, my dear brethren, that I fear we have less in proportion to our numbers, knowledge and ability!

I rejoice to know that there are many noble exceptions, and I hope that I may have the happiness of knowing that all of the holy brotherhood will soon be noted not only for their correct knowledge of the truth, but their zeal and wisdom in its dissemination, and that soon the world will be constrained to say, see how these christians love one another. May the time shortly arrive when all of us shall constantly be bringing forth the fruit of the Spirit—when daily in every family the voice of prayer and the song of praise shall arise like incense before the throne, and when every congregation shall with truth be addressed in the language of Paul to the Thessalonians: “We give thanks to God, always for you all, making mention of you in our prayers; remembering without ceasing your work of faith, and labor of love, and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.”

Dear brethren, these remarks are only introductory and general. In our next, the Lord willing, your attention will be invited to particulars relative to your practice as Churches of God—families having the charge of souls, and as individual members of the body of Christ.

Your affectionate fellow citizen in the kingdom of God.

W. W. EATON.