

silver, the cattle upon a thousand hills, the fowls of the mountains, the wild beasts of the field ; "the world is mine and the fulness thereof," saith our God.

The possessions we call our own, some one else had a short time ago, and it is certain some one else will hold them after we are gone. The millionaires of the past brought nothing into this world, and they carried nothing out. Their claim, at best, was but a life-lease.

In Mark x. 17, 22, in the case of the rich young ruler, the Saviour asserts His right to demand a part, or all that we possess, as may be pleasing to Him. As He is the owner, and we but stewards, surely He has a right to demand as His wisdom may direct.

The Lord Jesus may not require us to give all, as He did this young man, but He does command us to give at least one-tenth of our income back to Him. This young man was avaricious, he loved the world ; Christ knew his chief difficulty. The test comes to every man, "Come, follow Me." He could not part with his riches. He went away sorrowful. We never read of His returning. He went away from Christ, comfort, usefulness, happiness and life. He returned to his riches, companions, profession, the world and death. Had this young man obeyed Christ, he would not have been the loser ; no doubt his name would have been handed down to us as a second Paul.

"Scoffers may ask, Where is your gain !
And, mocking, say your work is vain ;
But scoffers die and are forgot,
Work done for God, that dieth not."