

giver." "To do good and to communicate (give) forget not, for with such sacrifice God is well pleased." "Charge them that are rich in this world that they be ready to distribute, willing to communicate; laying up in store for themselves a good foundation against the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life" (1st Tim., 6: 17). "Bring ye all the tithes into the store house, that there may be meat in my house, and prove me now herewith saith the Lord of hosts, if I will not open the windows of Heaven, and pour you out a blessing that there shall not be room enough to receive it" (Mal. 3: 10, 11).

These words were not spoken without a purpose. They are full of meaning. They have a significance which should be fully appreciated by the Christians of our day. The experience of God's people bears ample testimony to their truthfulness. It is not too much to affirm that the men who give the most liberally and systematically are the most useful and most happy Christians. They enjoy fully the richness of the gospel and the fatness of the Lord's house.

The act of giving exercises a reflexive and beneficial influence upon the soul. It crucifies the love of the world, destroys selfishness, draws out their sympathy and love towards their fellow men, deepens their interest in the cause of Christ, increases the spirit of prayer, prepares the mind for the reception of truth and opens the heart for the indwelling of the Spirit.

Then there is the promise, "the blessing of the Lord which maketh rich and addeth no sorrow with it." Complying with the requirements of God's Word, we shall receive a blessing; refusing to comply, we must suffer the consequences. "God is not man that He should lie; neither the son of man, that He should repent: hath He said, and shall He not do it? or hath He spoken, and shall He not make it good?"

What is true of the individual is also true of the Church. Why is it that to-

day we have so much preaching and so little practice? We have earnest men and faithful preachers in our pulpits, we have our Sabbath-day worship and weekly prayer-meetings, our Sabbath-schools and Bible classes, yet, with all those and other appliances in operation, how few the conversions to Christ! It is an interesting and instructive fact that in proportion to the amount of money and labor expended there are more conversions made to Christ in heathen lands to-day than there are in civilized countries.

We hear a great deal of the scepticism and infidelity of the times, of the materialistic tendencies of the science and philosophy of the age; and every lover of truth and humanity must view with sorrow the rapid strides with which Mammon is marching through the land. Sceptics boldly assert that the Gospel is losing its power and that the religion of the Bible will soon be a thing of the past.

They have apparent reason for their boasting. The fourth commandment seems to be no longer binding upon the consciences of the people. In this nominally Christian country the steamboat whistle may be heard in many of our harbors on the Sabbath morning; while the railcars go thundering through our towns, carrying respectable men and church members; in factories and coal mines, which are owned largely by professed Christian men, many employees are compelled to perform work which is neither the work of necessity nor mercy; rum-sellers and wholesale liquor dealers can yet take their seats at the Lord's Table while some of the victims of their nefarious traffic are serving out their term of imprisonment; in many congregations, of eighty or a hundred families, bazaars, of which "grab-bags" and "lotteries" form an important part, seem to be an indispensable auxiliary in raising the necessary funds, money which liberal and honest Christians would gladly pay out of their own pockets; and even tea meetings are some-