

it, they are without excuse. On them, moreover, devolve some material duties. The temporal support of the dispensers of the word, is one of these. The Apostle, in writing to the Corinthians, has so clearly presented this subject, that I cannot forbear to quote his words: "If we have sown unto you spiritual things, is it a great thing if we shall reap your carnal things? • • Do ye not know that they who minister about holy things live of the things of the temple; and they who wait at the altar are partakers with the altar? Even so hath the Lord ordained that they who preach the gospel should live of the gospel:" that is, should be supported by those who are benefited by their labours, as is the case with any other professional or labouring men. This is the plain meaning of Paul's words, and the command is as binding as any ordinance of God.

Similar to this is my second general remark: viz., that *to make an able minister, it is necessary to have a praying people.* On what other principle can we account for the request which concludes so many of the apostolical letters, "*Pray for us*"? Who does not feel his hands strengthened in any enterprise by the co-operation of friends? Does not the politician, when agitating the passage of a measure, seek to have his proposition backed by the petitions of the people? No man needs such assistance more than he who is called to "stand between the living and the dead."—My Christian brethren, if you wish your minister to succeed, *pray for him.* If you neglect this duty, complain not of barrenness in the church. The *end* cannot be accomplished without the *means.*

My concluding inference from the whole subject is this; *the minister of the New Testament must look to eternity for the fruits of his labours.* True, he should be encouraged to expect *some* fruit here—for otherwise he would soon despair—but eternity alone will fully develop his usefulness. The minister's work relates particularly to the *heart.* Impressions made upon that "deceitful" instrument are not always known here; but they shall be hereafter. The effects of a man's life seldom, if ever, terminate at his death: they are inherited by after generations. And how delightful the reflection to the servant of God at the close of his life, that he has spent it in his master's service! Thus spoke the author of my text: "The time of my departure is at hand. I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness." Such should be the language of every minister in his dying hour.

But this is not all. Years after his triumphant entrance into heaven, what rapturous scenes may burst upon his view! Yonder approach a large retinue of the heavenly messengers, escorting one of the redeemed. As they draw near, the former minister recognizes in him the person of an old acquaintance. He advances to meet him, and is hailed as the instrument of his conversion.—