

and offerings." Read His punishment upon those who took care of their own and neglected His House. "Consider your ways," He says. "Ye have sown much and bring in little. Ye looked for much and it came to little. And when ye brought it home and I did blow upon it. Why? Because of Mine House that is waste, and ye run every man unto his own house." Haggai, i.

As to offerings, do not be mean with them. Bring as largely as you possibly can each week. Study how much you can give. Do not be afraid of giving too much to the Lord. No one ever loses what he gives to God. Nor think to save money by staying away from church. If you could never go to church at all, you should still send your offerings. Money saved out of God will become cankered in its use and will be a witness against the owner in the last day. Read St. James, chap. 5.

Many good works for Christ would be done in parish life if the people would bring what they justly ought and what they can bring to the Lord. And do not keep a book account with the Almighty as you do with your grocer, asking the Lord to give you credit for each dime or dollar you bring. The Lord will keep such an account, if you desire it, and at the last day. His day of settling accounts with men, He will open His books before angels and men, and show what He has done for you and what you have done for Him. His Holy Spirit, who walks continually by your side, will point out His continual care and watchful providence over you through the whole course of your life.

His provision of health and friends, and food and raiment, and shelter and sleep, and countless other comforts of life. And with all these the redemption of your soul and body to such happiness in the life to come as the human mind on earth has not been able to imagine. He will open to the universe all this and then your credits of a few dimes or dollars begrudgingly given once in a while for Him. No don't keep any debit and credit account with God, and do not tell others what you give. Give secretly, between Himself and you, and He will daily pour gladness into your heart.

Never say that you must first pay your debts before you give to God's Church. Your first debt is to Him who gives you all things. He who pays his dues to God will be enabled to pay his debts to his neighbors.

Above all, stand by your Pastor in his work. Do not forsake him. Be not of those who wound and hurt a Pastor's heart and influence; who withdraw from him and forsake him without a word of explanation or excuse: with no word of thanks for all he has tried to do for them.

He has been appointed over them by the Lord. He has broken to them the Bread of Life. He has done for them and for their family all that He could do, in times of health and sickness, in affliction, sorrow and joy, but they have turned their backs from Him and fled as though He were an enemy. Wherever such persons go, certainly they cannot carry the Lord's blessing with them, for they have made a "schism" in the Body of Christ. They have wounded the blessed Saviour in His minister. "Inasmuch as ye have done unto it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me." Be afraid, then lest when your name is blotted out of your faithful pastor's parish book it be also blotted out of the Lord's Book of Life. For He said to His ministers, "Whatsoever ye bind or loose on earth shall be bound or loosed in Heaven." If you remove into another parish, obtain a letter of transfer from your pastor. Do not leave him with less decency than you would leave a landlord at whose table you had received your food. If there be something in the services that you do not like do not make a schism, but speak kindly to your pastor of it. Bear patiently. Christ commands peace and forbids division. Do not complain of your pastor because he does not visit you. When he is not visiting you he

is visiting some one that needs him more; or he is at some sick-bed or funeral, or Church service or instruction, or studying and writing for his work. And why should he visit you except in sickness? Why should you not visit him? It is easier for a hundred persons to visit him than for him to visit a hundred. Turn this matter round about and let the parishioners come to him when they desire to see him. As to parish work, don't stand back waiting to be invited, but come and offer your services to Christ through your pastor for the Sunday school, Bible classes, choirs; in organizing and helping parish guilds, especially for the young in visiting the sick, the neglected and strangers; in bringing people to church and there helping them through the service; in lending books and papers of instruction, and in reading and studying yourself to explain to others your pastor in Christ's work greatly needs help of many kinds. Come to him and talk over parish interests, and ask him what you can do. Show your interest in everything that goes on in the parish; and be not one of those who come to the house of God for sociability and who complain. "I might go to that church for years and nobody would notice me." Christ does not send you to work in His vineyard to be "noticed," but to work. He bids you not to be "noticed." He says "he that would be great among you let him be your servant. Even as the Son of Man came not to be ministered unto but to minister unto others, and to give his life a ransom for many." Neither be of them who take offence at their pastors faithful rebuke. He is set over you by Christ, who says to him, "I have set thee a watchman unto the house of Israel. If thou dost not speak to warn the wicked from his way, that wicked one shall die in his iniquity, but his blood will I require at thy hands."—Ezekiel, xxxiii.

If you hear your religion or Church assailed, do not go to strangers for books or information, but come directly to him whom the Lord has set over you; for the Lord says to you, "Obey them that have rule (guide) over you, and submit yourselves, for they watch for your souls as they must give an account." If you feel yourself becoming indifferent and cold in your religious life, come at once to your pastor for such godly counsel and advice as will remove difficulties and awaken you from spiritual sloth.

If you think of marriage, do not enter upon it without your own pastor's blessing. The blessing of pastors and parents upon the marriage of children go down to the third and fourth generation.

In all things, then, as Christ's disciple, work under your pastor for Christ. The time allowed us is very short, and we cannot come back from the grave to finish neglected duties. Let us work, then, while we have to-day. The great Day of Account is rapidly approaching, when we must be judged, not for a death-bed repentance, but for the "works done in the body."

Wherefore be thou faithful unto death, and He who walketh amidst the Golden Candlesticks,—the Churches,—will give thee a Crown of life.—Church News.

TOO TIRED TO GO TO CHURCH.

One of the commonest of reasons given for not attending divine service is this, "I was too tired after my week's work, and wanted simply to rest." It certainly seems a respectable reason as one regards it superficially. Yet after all is said it is good only in rare cases. To regard Sunday as mainly a day of rest from labor is to forget its first reason for being, namely that it is the Lord's Day. And if we are to use it rightfully as a day of rest, we must first use it reverently as a day of worship.

Doubtless there are some who come up to the Lord's day worn out with their toil. But for one man who is thus weary there are many women. The wives and the mothers whose gentle cares and household tasks never end, who never know what it is to have a distinct day of rest from their labors cut out of the week and sharply defined, are of all persons the very ones who can make this excuse justly, if any one can do so. Yet they are the last to make it, and the most faithful in keeping Sunday as a Christian should.

Again the busiest men in the congregation are often the most regular in attendance at Church. There are some people who drive their work, and some whose work drives them. The keenest workers in the parish are generally the hardest workers in their world. The truth is there always remains time and energy for doing any duty we really want to do. And those who accomplish the most are often the richest in time to attend to each duty in its place. We should remember that it is a sign of weakness and insincerity to be ever pleading that poverty-stricken plea, "I have not time," when duty calls.

The Sunday is generally for men a day out out clean from the balance of the week. And after a night's rest a man should be ashamed to excuse himself from a little exertion on the ground of being tired. And even if one is a little worn and fatigued, will a day spent in mere loitering, rest one the best? To spend a day doing nothing and accomplishing nothing, ought to leave behind such a sense of dissatisfaction with self as would spoil one's rest instead of refreshing him. To a man honestly tired, the best of rest is not dalliance but a change of occupation. To refresh the soul is the very best way to revive the body. Sunday is enjoined upon us just for that reason. And he who forgets or refuses to discern that profound truth will find his Sunday stale and unprofitable, if nothing worse. Have we not all discovered we can make it a weary day, yet spend no hours in public worship?

Without urging the authorities for a devout observance, if one really seeks for relief from the cares and toils of time he will find it best, in turning from them to the contemplation of eternity, and in pausing a while from business to think of its solemn responsibilities, and its august concerns. The man who is turning a crank rests his right hand by using his left. We who are turning the cranks in the labors of the world can rest both mind and body best by educating the soul. The main trouble with men's faith and religiousness to-day arises in sheer neglect of that education. The best cure for that neglect stands waiting for them in the Church's means of grace. And the first, because the most open of these means, is in the public services of Sunday.

Bring to the cure of your world weariness the conscientious and regular use of those services, and soon they will grow to be to you your highest privilege. As many another has found, you also may find, in these quiet restful hours in the Church, relief to strained nerves, a better knowledge of Christ's religion, peace of mind, and exaltation of soul.—No. 1, Dakota Churchman.

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