

well-being of themselves and their families, or for their own future worldly plans and projects, is all first and foremost taken out of the Treasury, and expended for each of these objects; and whatever may be the residue or overplus, is then divided or apportioned in the support of divine ordinances, or in the upholding of various schemes of Christian usefulness according to their supposed value or importance. Now this ought not so to be. Will any professing Christian venture to maintain that the things of the body and of time, are ever, for one moment, to be compared with the things of the soul and eternity? Will not every reflecting man ... once acquiesce in the declaration of the faithful and true Witness, "What shall it profit a man if he gain the whole world and lose his own soul, or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul." And if such is the value of the soul, such the magnitude of the things of eternity, then surely the salvation of the soul, and the security of our eternal blessedness, ought to constitute the grand business of life, the paramount subject of concern; and ought to invest the means that God in his wisdom and in his grace has devised, and promised to render efficacious for the accomplishment of these ends, with the most transcendent importance. The institutions of divine grace constitute the means, and these means are extended and upheld by the worldly substance that God has given us; and, therefore, the measure or the proportion of that substance that ought to be dedicated to this purpose, instead of being the last, ought to form the first matter of consideration, that not the mere dregs, but a due measure of the means given us, may be set apart for this object. The Jews were required to give the first of their cattle, of their fruit, of all their substance unto the Lord, and so ought we. Would that such a spirit were poured out upon all ranks of professing Christians! Then would not only all the rest of their stores be blessed, but the windows of heaven would be opened, and such a spiritual blessing poured out, that there would not be room enough to receive it. Then would there be no lack of means or agency for the evangelization of the world. Then would the fields that are whitening for the harvest, be speedily gathered into the granary-house of Christ.

2nd, But again, professing Christians ought to strive after a greater measure of conscientiousness in the discharge of this duty. Not a few imagine that when they have given all that the office-bearers of the Church demand, when they have paid their pew rents, or the sums that they have subscribed towards the support of the Minister, or when they have equalled in charity and liberality those who hold the same position or status in society with themselves, that they have done all that is required at their hands, yea, that they are entitled to every meed of

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