

in this matter, rather than individuals, for it belongs to the churches to carry out *every divine regulation*, and if there are amongst our church members individuals who will not bow to a rule of the New Testament, they ought to be disciplined. What right has any church to dispense with heaven's law of giving? Can we innocently ignore the principle to give as God has prospered us? Can we blot out, in effect, the Lord's law of equality, and still expect the favor of God to be with us? Impossible! Let the churches inquire, then, whether much of their present barrenness may not be referable to the sanction which they tacitly give to that worldly-mindedness which eases one and burdens another. *Third.* Support the ministry if you would have an efficient ministry. It is found to be next to impossible, at the present day, to prevail upon young men of talent to consecrate themselves to the work of preaching the gospel. The reason is, that in almost any worldly profession, whether it be the bar, the counting room, or the farm, an independent competency, to say the least of it, is easily reached, while in the ministry a bare living is the very best that is before them. We do not admire the spirit of such young men as can be turned aside from Christ's work by such considerations, but far less do we admire the spirit and the policy which throw such stumbling-blocks in their way. Sin in one direction will not neutralize sin in an opposite direction. In conclusion, we would earnestly ask, are our churches doing their duty on this subject? Are not our pastors wronged? And is it not a fact, that some brethren, according to Christ's estimate, are doing ten, ay, twenty times as much as others? The Lord saw the rich casting into the treasury *much* money, yet said, in view of the widow's two mites, "Verily I say unto you, that this poor widow hath cast *more* in than all they which have cast into the treasury." While, then, we complain of the absence of the Spirit, let us resolutely look these matters in the face. And may God strengthen and build up the churches in the faith of the gospel.