

### THE MINISTER'S RELATION TO FINANCES.

The minister's duties are multitudinous. Not only must he "feed the flock of God," but he must be in close touch with all the social and financial problems of the church and community. If he can not measure up to the demand in these particulars there is little hope of his success as a minister.

The man who would seclude himself in the privacy of his study, or busy himself constantly with family or personal matters, as important as these duties are, but who fails to mingle with is people in social intercourse and prayer and counsel them in their homes over the perplexing problems of life, will soon be "seeking another field of labor," whatever may be his ability in the pulpit.

Equally as important are the business and financial problems of the church, both local and general. Blest indeed is the local church in whose membership are those schooled in business and able to cope with the problem of successfully financing the local church. In many instances this is done with so great a degree of success as to entirely relieve the minister of burdens of this character, so that he can give himself to sermonizing, pastoral work and soul-saving, rather than to the "serving of tables."

But often the case is reversed, and the continued existence of the church depends upon the ability of the pastor to successfully pilot her through the troubled waters of finance. This department of his activity has become especially important in these days of grievous financial stress upon which we have fallen. And if ever the minister is to be "a man of business;" it is needful now. If because of natural temperament or indisposition to apply himself to this task, he is at fault in this emergency; his deficiency in his calling is as marked as though he failed to prepare edifying sermons or to save the lost and perishing, because God has made the ministry equally responsible with the laity for the solution of the financial burdens of the church.

We quite agree with Rev. J. E. Hatt, D. D., writing in the *Christian Conservator* recently, who says:

The preacher who has not strength of character and intelligence sufficient to discuss the subject of finance before an audience and particularly his own congregation, at a proper time, and executive ability to organize his financial boards, and diligence to see that the work is done efficiently, is not qualified for his office. Quite recently I heard a Methodist presiding elder say that he had one man on a charge who said he did not understand financiering and did not care to learn. He then added that he would have to be retired at the next conference, since they could not use him.

Among the chief obstacles to the Kingdom of Christ is the spiritual and moral dwarf who objects to hearing men talk about "money in the pulpit." He does not consider that giving has always been, and always will be, an important part of divine worship. We are to bring our gifts to the altar, and in a right spirit.

The pastor who literally "seeks first the

kingdom of God and His righteousness," strengthening by all proper methods the financial and spiritual security of the church in its local and general interests, need have no fear for support. Churches are not usually slow to recognize that "the laborer is worthy of his hire," but it frequently occurs that the amount of his remuneration is in proportion to his worth. Such men have no one but themselves to blame for their lack of support.

Let us each strive earnestly to do our part as members of the body of Christ, then there will be due nourishment for every part.—Wesleyan Methodist.

### THE SIGNIFICANCE OF OUR THOUGHTS

Every day we are becoming more and more like our thoughts. What we are today is the outcome of thoughts we have cherished in the past, while the thoughts that we are cherishing today are determining what we shall be in the future. If our thoughts are low and base and ignoble. If our thoughts are pure and clean and Christ-like. If we could look into the chambers of your imagination and observe what is taking place there, the thoughts you carry about with you, the desires and ambitions of your heart, the stuff of which your dreams are composed, we could prophesy with the utmost confidence the kind of person you are becoming and therefore the kind of person you shall be. It is in the light of such a fact as this that we see the significance of Paul's exhortation: "Whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honorable, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue and if there be any praise, think on these things." Think on these things and we ourselves will become true and honorable and just and pure. It is particularly important that parents realize the truth of this. And yet how few of them apparently do! How many parents there are who are careful as to the food their children eat and the water they drink, but who are indifferent to the books they read, the movies they attend, the companions with whom they associate. No doubt we should exercise due care as to what we take into our bodies, but it is infinitely more important that we take heed to the thoughts that enter our minds. Here, too, Christ's warning has its application: "Be not afraid of them that kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul; but rather fear him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell."—The Presbyterian.

The only animal dirty enough for the devil to go into after coming out of a man was a hog.—Harry Loomer.

Prayer is not only the opportunity of the Christian, but his obligation. He walks with God; and a silent companionship is hardly thinkable. We talk with God. We walk not only in His presence and in His fear but in His companionship. We walk into His heart by prayer, and we stay in His heart by prayer, and we make our life vast by prayer. "Holiness, without which no man can see God," is had, as all testimony shows, only by prayer. They pray without ceasing who love without ceasing and serve without ceasing. Wherefore, my soul, pray.—William A. Quayle.

### THE UNCREATED BEAM.

J. H. Jowett.

"In Thy light shall we see light." A little while ago I was in a certain cathedral when the sunshine, pouring through a very vivid stained glass window, fell upon the open Bible, and stained its pages with the color of the medium through which it had passed. It was no longer the simple sunshine, but tinted green or purple as the case might be. And the happening became symbolic and took on spiritual significance. For how often we filter God's plain light through colored windows of our making! We construct a transforming medium, and then we affect to bask in the eternal Light, when all the time we are moving in perverted light of our own creation.

Perhaps it is the stained window of prejudice until it becomes one of the firm and established windows in his life. He sees his neighbor in this misinforming light. He looks at society and business as they lie in the self-created hue. Nay, the Bible itself reflects the light of his own prejudice, and he sees only what he wants to see, and not what the Holy Spirit revealed. If only he would remove that stained glass window, and let in God's light he would see light, and the revelations would be the ministers of truth and holiness.

Or perhaps the perverting medium is a mean or false ambition. Our ambitions directly influence our desires, and our desires are master-elements in determining our interpretations of God's truth. We may believe just as much as we want to believe, and that "want" is largely fashioned by the most zealous ambition which is reigning in the soul. It was on this matter that our Master uttered a very significant word: "How can ye believe who seek honor one of another?"

Here is belief in one direction fatally affected by a search in another direction. That is to say, a man's faith is directly related to his quest. A man who is feverish for honors, and who will take any road to get them, cannot believe in Jesus, for the simple reason that he cannot see him. Everything is deeply colored in the red hues of his own fiery ambition. He does not see anything as it really is, not even the Lord Himself. And except that man be born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.

And so for the only wise and healthy lift of the soul we need plain glass windows. "If thine eye be single thy whole body shall be full of light." If we would enter into the wonderful secrets of salvation we must receive "with meekness" the engrafted Word, and let it shine like unadulterated light upon all the powers and business of the soul.—Christian Herald,

Disappointments come to those only who want their own will and way. The moment those very "disappointed" ones submit to God's will in their life, those disappointments are changed to H-isappointments and the thwarting of their purpose is God's better choice for them.

"Disappointment—His appointment,  
Change one letter, then I see  
That the thwarting of my purpose  
Is God's better choice for me."

—R.