

GOD'S GIFTS AND CALLING.

By A. T. Warren.

The gifts and calling of God are without repentance. Romans 11:29.

God has not repented of calling Abraham and his seed as his people, or regretted the promise made to the fathers. Man's conduct may change His manner but not His mind. God's dealings may vary but not His determinings. His providence may alter but not His purpose. The strength of Israel will not lie nor repent. (I. Sam. xv. 29) God's unchangeableness was the ground of Israel's safety. (Mal. iii. 6). "For I am the Lord, I change not."

For some time this truth, of the "gifts and calling of God" has been going through my mind. It has come to me with force, that slowness of the Gospel chariot in the Church is because of disobedience to the call of God. There are so few who will push the chariot, they are so weak and sickly, and so easily discouraged, because they do not discern the mighty possibilities that are at their disposal.

God has called His Church unto holiness. Many are like the children of Israel, they are so disobedient and are wandering around in a wilderness state. When their Captain wants to marshall his forces against the powers of darkness they are so weak and faint-hearted they are perfectly useless, unless to give a few dollars, keep a seat warm or give their assent to the good work of saving souls and the sanctification of believers. What is the cause? They have had a call of God to go on to holiness, but they have disobeyed the call and some of them have lost their bearings, because they have disobeyed the call. You will find those people not very particular relative to duty. Their life has been a continual one of sinning and repenting. Before they will get a starting point in their experience they will have to settle this matter with Jesus Christ, repent of their disobedience and promise to obey the claims and call of God upon their life.

There is another call that we wish to especially deal with, and that is the call of God into active service. While we believe every child of God is called to work for him, there is a special call into active service. There are those whom God has called to leave home—both men and women—from various occupations in life into His vineyard. But in this call we are surprised that many seemingly good people do not see the dignity of that call, and that it is a call without repentance, that is, God does not change His mind.

I have noticed if there are three boys in a family, one a tradesman, one a doctor, the other a preacher, if the father at home requires a son to help him on the farm, he would most likely expect the young man who is in the ministry to spend a few months to help out, but would not consider for a moment asking the tradesman or the doctor. Why is it? Because the calling of God in their estimation is not as important as the call of the other two boys to secular occupation.

However, we do not wish to infer that a young man who has been called to preach could not, at certain times, help

his father. He may do this, or help some one else and it prove a blessing to himself in every way. What I wish to convey to the minds of the reader is this, that a truly consecrated father or mother, will consider the call of God to the ministry of their child of more importance than the boys who have chosen some secular employment. They will be able to say like Hannah (I. Sam. 1:28) "Therefore also I have lent him to the Lord; so long as he liveth, he shall be lent to the Lord."

Then there are the handmaidens whom the Holy Ghost has called to preach, exhort and sing. We have noticed that if there are three girls in a family, one a school teacher, one a nurse, the other called into active service, if the mother is alone and has a lot of hard work to do, pretty near all that are related to that mother will exclaim, she should be helping her poor mother, but nothing about the girl that is teaching or nursing. Of course they are making money and perhaps could well afford to hire a girl to help that mother who has more than she can do, but the girl who had a severe struggle to give up that occupation that provided her with perhaps the luxuries of life to obey the heavenly call has, with the temptations of the cold world, to be reproached with ungratefulness when it almost took her very life to obey the call of God.

There is another way that the call of God is not respected by well meaning people, that in many fields they go to labor, there will be some one making approaches to them relative to matrimony. There is certainly a mistake somewhere, either they have made a mistake in the call of God, or the young man is certainly out of God's order in his approaches.

We believe that women are as truly called of God as men, as we read in Acts 2:18: "And on my servants and on my handmaidens I will pour out in those days of My Spirit; and they shall prophesy." We have Bible, that God would in these last days, call His handmaidens to prophesy, and that they have been blessedly successful at it, has been truly vindicated.

We are not advocating a life of celibacy for our lady evangelists, neither do we believe God changes His mind, as we believe this call is without repentance, and will follow a man or woman through life, but if it is their will, and His will, that they should change their relation in this respect, God will open up the way so they will continue to work in the same line as God had called them to. There are temptations, crosses and self-denial on the part of the ministry to be met. We only pray that our laity will respect the high and holy calling, help and not hinder, especially our young workers, or throw temptations in their way. To be and remain in divine order is a comfort and solace to the soul, but it is hell out of divine order no matter where your life is cast.

I will not sour my present mercies, by suspicion, or fear, or anxiety. It is my duty, it my privilege, to be careful for nothing; but to cast all my care on Him who careth for me.—Selected.

"GO BECAUSE IT RAINS"

"I suppose that you won't go to Sabbath-school today, Lucy?" said a mother, one stormy Sabbath, settling herself to read.

"Please let me go today, mamma; I want to go because it rains."

"Why, Lucy, that is my excuse for staying at home. How can you make it a reason for going?"

"Our teacher always goes, mamma, in all weather, although she lives so far away. She told the class that one Sabbath, when she went through the storm, and did not find even one scholar, she was so discouraged that she could not help crying. She asked us, too, if we did not go to our day schools in the rainy weather; and she said, while we must obey our parents, if we ask them pleasantly to let us go, they would likely be willing. Mamma, will you please let me go today?"

"Well, I am willing, my dear, if you wear your suit. Go and get ready."

But the mother no longer took any interest in her book, but said to her husband (a lawyer), who came in from the library, "Lucy is going to Sabbath-school today because it rains, so that her teacher may be encouraged by the presence of, at least, one pupil. Suppose we go to the chapel for the same reason, if not for a better."

"Agreed. I never could plead a cause to an empty court room, and the minister must find it hard work to preach to empty pews."—Sel.

DO YOU EVER

- Do you ever visit the sick?
- Do you ever feed the hungry?
- Do you ever have family prayer?
- Do you ever pray for your enemies?
- Do you ever pray for your minister?
- Do you ever think of seeking holiness?
- Receive any answers to your prayers?
- Do you ever lead any souls to Christ?
- Do you ever spend an hour alone with God?
- Do you ever deny yourself for Jesus' sake?
- Do you ever ask a blessing before meals?
- Do you ever make any inroads on the devil's kingdom.
- Do you ever invite any one to prayer meeting or church?
- Do you ever displease Jesus by standing idle in His vineyard?
- Do you ever do anything that your conscience condemns?
- Do you ever think you might be in the wrong as well as others?
- Do you ever weep with Jesus over the erring, sinful souls of men?
- Do you ever think that to give less than a tenth of your income to God is robbery?
- Do you ever grumble or find fault with those who are earnestly laboring for souls?
- Do you ever think that any life other than that of self-denial will admit you into the fold of Christ?—Sel.

"I am not bound to win, but I am bound to be true. I am not bound to succeed, but I am bound to live up to what light I have."