

WOMAN'S MISSIONS.

EDITED BY
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"Whatever thy hands find to do, do it with thy might." Ecc. 9-10

An average of a dollar a year for missions from every woman of this church is our aim.

Honor the Lord with thy substance and with the first-fruits of all thy increase— So shall thy barns be filled with plenty and thy presses shall burst out with new wine.

Bible.

Give and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again.—Bible.

Systematic Proportionate Giving.

"As I have given order to the churches of Galatia, even so do ye. Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store as God hath prospered him that there be no gatherings when I come." Such was the teachings of Paul to the churches in earlier times, and is it not equally as applicable to the churches of to-day. "Let every one of you lay by him in store as God hath prospered him." This does not say let the poor only lay by him in store as God hath prospered him, nor the well-to-do, nor the rich, but every one of you, as God hath prospered him. None are excused unless God has failed to do his part. If this one order of Paul's was complied with in spirit there would not be to-day so many empty church treasuries and so many interests of the Master's kingdom go begging for want of a support, neither would we have to have "line upon line and precept upon precept" upon the subject of "Systematic Proportionate Giving" for the rank and file of the church would already constitute an army of systematic proportionate givers and we verily believe there would be a sufficiency for all purposes. There are two very important lessons to every individual couched in these scripture texts: First, We are to lay by at a stated time. This complied with cannot fail to educate us into a system—that is a giving of our means at regular stated times for the support of the gospel. The time mentioned by Paul is on the first day of the

week. Some may say, "That time is not a convenient time for me, I receive my pay monthly." Very well, then let a stated time each month be the time that you lay aside for the Lord's treasury. This "stated time" is, we think, a good suggestion, for are not the habits and practices of every well ordered home such that at stated times—accounts are balanced and provisions for the temporal wants of the family arranged for, and should not Christ's interests have equal place with ours in our arrangements? If they have not we certainly are unjust stewards.

Second. We are to give as the Lord has prospered us. The requirement is not an unreasonable one, it can easily be met by every Christian who is so minded. "To whom little is given, little is required, to whom much is given, much is required." Our proportion is according to our ability as God hath prospered us. It may be a half, a fourth, a fifth, a seventh, a tenth, but every one is in duty bound to give as the Lord has prospered him. It is an individual matter between every Christian and his God. While Christ does not specify any definite proportion to be given, yet in Matt. 23:23, he sanctions the giving of the one-tenth as practiced by his chosen people before and after the Mosaic law, and repeatedly in the New Testament scripture are we reminded that freely we have received and we should freely give. And be it remembered that the Lord stands over against his treasury just as truly to-day as he did when he saw the rich casting in their gifts and noted the widow's mite. Every one is to lay by as God has prospered him. A well-to-do living, comfortable or luxurious homes and surroundings elicit corresponding gifts for the Lord's treasury and if not bestowed that individual life, as a Christian, does not carry with it the convincing proof of one truly born of the Spirit for it plainly evidences that it is dollars for "self" and cents for "Christ". The putting into practice Paul's orders would bring great resources for good to humanity and Christ's cause and until such is in practice the church must needs dwell beneath its opportunities for good, and many will be condemned as unjust stewards.

Let every Christian ask himself the question, Am I helping block the progress of the church's use-

fulness by refusing to contribute systematically and proportionately that which belongs justly to the Lord's treasury? Am I robbing God? In judgment will there an army of witnesses rise up against us because we were not diligent in complying with Christ's command to witness of him to all nations? God forbid! The benefits accruing from Systematic Proportionate Giving are twofold: First, the funds thus secured would assure support in sending out greater numbers to preach and teach the Word and thus hasten the coming of Christ and his kingdom; Second, the sweet peace of mind it brings to every one practicing it, from a sense of duty done through love for Christ who gave himself for us.

The Way to Give.

"As I was riding with a farmer to church, one Sabbath, we fell into conversation on the subject of giving. He was a Presbyterian elder, a man between fifty and sixty years of age. Said he, 'I give a tenth of all I make to the Lord. Every crop of corn, every load of hay, every dozen of eggs I sell, I keep account of, and one tenth of the profit goes to the Lord. It came rather hard at first, but that is past long ago. Now I have only to distribute what is already given. I am ready to listen to any reasonable application, and if I think it a good object, it is nothing but a pleasure to give. That tenth, I have come to feel, belongs to God. I never touch it. I should as soon think of spending my neighbor's money as that.' About the same time I met this man's pastor. Said he, 'That farmer is not only the largest giver, but the most cheerful giver in my parish. I preach in two churches. He helps liberally in sustaining both, and the money he gives is the least of the blessings he brings to us.'—Selected.

The following testimonies taken from "Questions and Answers about Christian Giving or Paying what we owe", may help some inquiring one to decide what is duty:

"An intelligent lady of my church, on the death of her husband, adopted the rule, and not only has been blessed personally, but her four daughters, and indeed all of her seven children, seem to be the objects of Divine

favor. All are prospering temporarily, and all save the little boy are consistent Christians."

"I was in doubt for a long time that I ought to give largely to benevolence, while I was in debt. I began to doubt, however, after a hard and unsuccessful struggle to get out of debt that I should ever succeed. At length I was persuaded that I was 'robbing God' to pay my creditors. My wife and I consulted over the matter and decided to give a tenth, which we have done, and God is prospering us beyond any previous experience."

"Some time ago I was receiving from a Christian gentleman in Philadelphia certain things needed in my church. He told me to make my own selection from the Lord's portion, and remarked that for thirty years he had been giving the one-tenth of his increase to the Lord. He commenced business on this principle, and during all that time he had been enabled to pay 100 cents on the dollar, and every year has had more and more to give back to Him from whom he received every good and perfect gift."

Self-denial Fund.

Mrs. Addie Beauchamp, Mrs. Dr. Alderton, Mrs. Elizabeth Vansickle, Mrs. Phoebe Trogden, each \$1.00; Mrs. A. J. Spitzer, Mr. and Mrs. I. Kretzinger, each \$2.00; Mrs. Geo. Wrightson, \$10.00; Mrs. Margaret Stubb, 50 cents; Mrs. L. Robinson, East Bay W. M. A., each 25 cents; A Friend, 20 cents; previously reported, \$38.76. Total to date, \$57.96.

May—Prayer Service.

TOPIC.—God's guidance and blessing at the annual meeting.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.—Ps. 84.

SONG.—"Precious promise God has given."

Review the mercies of the year and let delegates, visitors, and those entertaining be remembered. Let home workers share in these petitions, that every branch and every local may come up in full strength to the help of the Lord wherunto he has called us. Let earnest prayer be offered for those bearing the burdens of responsibilities, and that devoted workers may be secured as teachers and preachers of the Word, and that the funds needed may be gathered into the treasury, and that wisdom, judgment and discretion may characterize all the transactions connected therewith.