

A CONFIDENTIAL TALK WITH THEOLOGICAL STUDENTS.

When you enter upon your life Work are you going to be satisfied with the success of the ordinary minister? If you work along the usual lines have you any good reason to suppose that the results of your labors will be either different or better? Do you relish the prospect of crossing the ministerial deadline at fifty? Are not nine-tenths of the failures of ministers due to the lack of financial support? Have not the ministers as a rule to practically raise their own salaries by their ability to fill the pews?

Are present Evangelistic efforts and results satisfactory? Should not church membership mean to laymen a good deal more than it does now? Should not the next great revival be in the direction of the consecration of income? Is it probable, or even possible, that there will be any change for the better so long as the present line of teaching or want of teaching on this subject is continued? Is the time not ripe and opportune for a change? Is not the average giving of less than One Dollar per year to Home and Foreign Missions by professing Christians a shameful showing?

If when you engage in your life work all the members of your churches pay (not give) a tithe of their income to God would you ever be worried about support? Would you ever have to beg, or even have to ask, for money for all departments of the Master's work?

Suppose you were to adopt a rule making payment of tithes to God a test for membership in the church you serve, would you ever lack for members? Would you lack for support? Would not the very fact of such an innovation which commends itself to a large proportion of thinking Christian men draw to your church, and to you personally, both membership and support? How long would Dowieism live without tithes? How long since would Mormonism have died but for tithes? Do the members of these so-called churches love them less because they pay tithes? Is it not natural they should love them more? Is it not a law of human nature that we really love and care only for objects for which we work and to which we give? Judged by this unerring standard how much do we laymen really care for the church of which we are members, the



pastors who preach to us, or the spreading of the Gospel and Missions of every kind? Is it natural that we should care giving and paying as little as we do?

Entering the ministry as a profession is sufficient evidence that you care. Inasmuch as there are more than one hundred of us Laymen to one of you Ministers, is it not worth your while to do your best to have us care also? Is there any way to do it except to have us adopt the payment of the tithe to God as a rule of life?

All these questions are meant as merely suggestions. To the writer they are self-answering. I sincerely hope you will read the little volume and pamphlets sent herewith and make a study of the entire subject. You will find no subject of such vital interest and importance to your people, or one in which they will need more definite and practical information.

That you may be prepared to instruct and guide your people when the opportunity comes, is the prayer and hope of,

Yours very truly,

LAYMAN,

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