

Facts are stubborn things. Again, after Israel had long been ruled by kings, and Jerusalem had long been the metropolis of the land, and the residence of their king, where also God had placed his name, and required his people to come up for worship thrice a year—right in this city, dwelt Huldah, in their college. Her the Lord made prophetess for his people; and to her the king of his people sent to obtain the word of the Lord, or rather word from the Lord. Yes, sent a priest of the Lord, accompanied by four others, for a message from the Lord, who obtained it and conveyed it to the king! Again we say, facts are stubborn things. These are the Lord's doing, and marvelous in our eyes. These are specimens of the stigma God has placed upon woman, as such, because he has made her so!

Paul, after silencing those turbulent women in Corinth, who in assuming so much authority in church, had failed to honor the headship of man, reminded them, that in requiring them to submit to wholesome rules and regulations of the church, he had the example of the law, as it, too, recognized in man the right to rule, which they had ignored.

Hebron, O.

DUTIES OF CHRISTIANS, OR DYING IN DEBT.

BY C. J. WRIGHT.

Certain duties we regard as family duties. These we owe to our families, and if we do not discharge them, we must die in debt to our families. Family worship was the first worship in the world, and it was never abolished. As the family relation is a sacred and holy relation, so the family worship is sacred and holy. We are not only indebted to our families, but to others also. Paul acknowledged his indebtedness to the Jews and to the Greeks. This debt was not owing to what they had done for him. They had done him no favor. They had persecuted, striped and imprisoned him, but for Christ's sake he was their debtor. He really owed them the doing of all the good in his power, and if he failed in this he would have died a debtor.

Every Christian owes something to himself, to his family, to his neighbor, and something to his enemies. Yes, they may persecute us and do us all the harm they can,

yet we owe them all the good we can do. Rom. 12: 14-20.

Surely we owe something to the church, for it is the most important agency ever employed by the Savior of the world for the salvation of our race. It is the great fountain of blessing to each Christian. In it, through it and by it he is able to stand against the evils of the devil. Eph. 6: 11. It is more important to the world and to its own members than all earthly government, than all riches and all pleasures. Let us, therefore, stop and consider our duties to the church; what we owe it, for its own sake, for the world's sake, for Christ's sake and for our own soul's sake.

1. It is our duty to become members of the church; not only to be baptized into the body of Christ, to be born of water and the spirit into his kingdom; but also to be in the strictest and fullest fellowship with the congregation nearest us and most agreeable for us to meet with and work with. He who refuses to unite with, and share with the friends of our Master must die in debt, unprepared for the final settlement. Here we have two ideas: 1. The necessity of being citizens of the divine kingdom. No one can claim the protection and blessings of a government to which he does not belong, and especially to one he has despised and rejected. 2. No one can reasonably claim the use of ordinances, the means of grace, the consent, the aid, the comfort and strength of the members of the church in his vicinity when he refuses to unite with them. He who would have the church bound to him must first bind himself to the church. The obligation must be reciprocal and equal. These general principles include everything, but it may be best to specify in detail several items.

We owe to the church our presence at all its stated meetings, unless it is out of our power to attend. See 10: 25. Oh how much many are in arrears under this head. Every member really owes, not only his or her presence, also the deepest felt interest in the cause. To pay this indebtedness we must make an effort to feel an interest in the cause of our Master's government and work for it. We need to make this a matter of prayerful meditation and consultation. We should be in our places in due time; in our place, not far

off in some secluded part of the house. And we should be there in

due time, not at a late hour, after the singing is done. Oh, these late church goers are woefully in debt, and, if they thus die, will surely be in bad condition for the final settlement.

Each member owes to the church a large amount of forbearance. Some are weak, few are strong; and many of the strongest and most knowing often err. "There is none good, no not one." "If any man say he has no sin he deceiveth himself, and the truth is not in him." "Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ. He who never errs has no burdens for anyone to bear for him. He who has burdens to bear and feels the need of aid to bear them

can well afford to bear the burdens of others. "Let him that is without sin cast the first stone." Brethren, let us be slow, very slow to condemn. What we see may be really an error. But it may be only a misfortune, not a fault. The Lord is not soon angry. Let us be like him. Charity covereth a multitude of faults. The errors about us will be quite large enough when we have extended our mantle of charity to its utmost capacity. Tale bearers are not needed in the church. Grumblers and chronic fault-finders are not in demand. Lastly, we owe love to our brethren and sisters, pure love, Christian love. "A new commandment give I unto you, that ye love one another." Christ manifested his love for us by dying for us. Let us manifest our love by living for each other's good and to his honor and glory. Brethren, let us each examine himself, and if we are in debt on any, or all, of these points and many more that might be mentioned; let us settle up before the night of death comes upon us, for it is a fearful thing to die unprepared.

HELPS AND HINDRANCES.

C. J. MCKINNEY.

A pound of hindrance will counteract a ton of help. My watch has run for a year propelled by a strong mainspring. It stopped the other day. The microscope revealed the fact that a most diminutive fiber of cloth was the hindering cause. A brake applied to one wheel on a railroad train will compete successfully with a forty horse power engine. A single individual

although he be the most insignificant and worthless in a congregation of Christians can sometimes do more to pull a church down than a whole congregation can to build it up. He can sow more discord than all peace-makers can succeed in harmonizing. He can bring more disgrace upon a church than they may all be able to bring of honor. The devil is in every hindrance. The Lord in every help. The odds are against the right because more power is required to move than to stand still or prevent.

How cautiously therefore a people should look after impediments. A faithful horse will pull unto the death, at the bidding of his master, without stopping to see that the wheels are well oiled or the harness comfortably adjusted. But thinking men are not so. He may look after the hindrances as well as the helps. He has the Masters consent to do so, and his command to attend to it. At another time we desire to look into these things. It may be that some preacher has labored day and night and not without tears, yet failing to see the result he longed for. There is an impeding power somewhere. For success follows labor where this is not the case as sure as effect follows cause. Look within first. The cause may be there. It so often is there! Look around you. Look with full supply of the wisdom of the serpent. Speak and act with the dove's pure harmlessness. Where is this wisdom with innocence more needed. It may be that some pastor who feeds his flock from week to week has discovered to his distress that they are not nourished thereby. Stop and think. It may be that the food you give them is not nutritious. It may not be wholesome. Or a pest is in the flock, or wolves maybe, or dogs which neither eat the sheep's food nor allow them to eat. Who can tell?

A good healthy love of fun is commendable in any boy. This world was not made to mope in. But see that your amusement is always pure; and pay due heed to the feelings of all about you.

We live in the midst of an infinity of pleasures and disappointments, with senses capable of being touched by the former and wounded by the latter. A little reason will cause us to enjoy good as gently as possible, and to accommodate ourselves to the evil as well as we can.