

1184

think any brother has a right to officiate at the Lords table; but as the elders are the leaders and instructors of the flock, it is but proper and natural that they should take the lead in this matter. But if there is a passage of Scripture in the New Testament that enjoins this duty upon the elders of the church to the exclusion of the evangelists, deacons and other brethren in good standing, we have failed to find it. As a rule, however, we would encourage the elders to administer the Lord's Supper.

**CHRIST AS A WORKER.**

Christ was emphatically a worker. He went about doing good. And in his life he has set his followers an example of industry. He intended that the world should be saved by work; and in every thing that constitutes a good and useful life he has set us an example. Let us look for a few minutes at Christ as a worker.

1. His highest aim was to please God. His will was entirely merged into his Father's will. "I came not to do mine own will but the will of him that sent me," was characteristic of him all through his life. He said of the law of Moses that one jot or tittle of it should not pass away until all should be fulfilled.

And he fulfilled it to the letter. He kept every moral precept in it, while living, and in his wonderful death He became the ante-type of all the types that related to him as the lamb of God that was to take away the sin of the world. He came over sixty miles on foot, to submit to the institution of baptism, that was binding upon him as well as others, saying "thus it becometh us to fulfill all righteousness." He, in one word, carried out the declaration of the prophet, that "to obey was better than sacrifice.

2. He did not seek to please men. He honestly told them the truth, if it did sometimes offend. When the rich young man came to him asking what good thing he must do to inherit eternal life, there would have been a temptation for some, if they had been in his place, to keep back the rugged points in their teaching, or to soften down something a little; but he did neither. He frankly told the young man that there was only one course for him to pursue; and that was to go and sell all his property and give it to the poor, and then come and take up his cross and follow him. Some would have reasoned thus: We are poor in this

world's goods and this man is very rich and if we can only get him to join us his wealth will be a great help to us. But Jesus wanted not his riches, but him. He had come to save men, and must honestly tell them the truth, if it did offend, as in the case when many of his disciples, on account of his "hard sayings" "went back and walked no more with him.

3. He did not become impatient of success, as many who profess to be his followers do. He was willing to labor and wait for results. He converted very few during his public ministry so meager were the fruits of his personal ministry that when he came to the last great struggle there was not one friend to stand by him. All forsook him. But he looked beyond, and saw the "travail of his soul," and believed the seed he was sowing, in this life would spring up in the ages to come and bear fruit. He wants all to learn the important lesson that he aimed to teach, that there is a time to sow and a time to reap.

4. He was an unselfish worker. To save lost man he laid aside the glory which he had with the Father before the world was, and left the courts of glory for a life of humiliation and sorrow here with sinful man, that he might be able to save him from his ruined condition. His great and loving heart was so unselfish that he willingly bore all the shame and ignominy that His enemies could heap upon him, and at last gave himself to the shameful death of the cross, that he might save even those who treated him thus.

5. He was a steady worker. He did not become tired or discouraged, and give up, or turn aside for a moment from the purpose he had in view. The combined opposition of earth and hell was not able to make him swerve for a moment from his great purpose. Many Christian people fail, simply because their purpose is not fixed. They are so fickle-minded that you cannot get them to stick to any Christian work long enough to make it a success. Some of them need to be converted about every year. And some people go by fits and starts, in church work. They are sometimes so zealous that you have to hold them back, and at other times you can't get them to do anything. Now the kind of work that will always tell is the steady, constant kind of work that the Savior did. No matter wheth-

er he had friends or foes, or whether his friends proved true or false, he moved steadily forward, in his great work, turning neither to the right or to the left. And this is what is now needed upon the part of every Christian man and woman. No matter what others may do or how discouraging the outlook may appear, each one should press forward in his and her duty, following the example set by the Redeemer.

6. He did not judge his success by the great multitudes that followed him. Many people seem to think if a preacher can draw the crowd that he is a successful preacher. But Jesus was able to look into the hearts of people and thus know the motives that actuated them; and he very well knew that the crowd often followed him through some impure motive, for the loaves and fishes or through curiosity, and hence we find his teaching such, sometimes, that it even cut off many of his disciples so that they "went back and walked no more with him." The day of judgement will decide who has been the successful workers in this world. I have not the least doubt but that many an obscure worker who has labored here simply with a view to saving souls and honoring God, will be more honored in that day than many who have been far ahead of them in the estimation of their brethren while they were in this world.

M.

**DAVID AT HEBRON.**

After Saul's death, we find David anointed king at Hebron, where he ruled for seven years and a half, waxing greater and greater, for the Lord was with him. How many sacred memories cluster around this ancient city, that has been held in turn by giants of a lost race, by the Israelites, by the Edomites, devastated by the Romans, ruled by the Moslems or conquered by the crusaders, who gave way again to the victorious followers of Mohammed. Two thousand years before Christ and a thousand years before David began his reign, the pathetic story is told of Abraham buying a burial place of the sons of Heth, for his wife Sarah who had died in a land of strangers. Abraham had taken no thought of a place to bury his kindred before, but now in the oriental style of obsequious words he buys the first burial place on record, the cave of Machpelah at Hebron. There were buried Sarah, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, Rebekah

and Leah. The little group of graves lies low in the picturesque valley of Eschol among the mountains of Judah, in which the city of Hebron was built. Now we step forward, for the name of that fruitful valley recalls the searching of the land by the spies sent out from the wilderness of Paran. It was a goodly country; they bore back with them great bunches of grapes, pomegranates and figs: but their faces fell when they remembered the walled cities and the giant sons of Anak in whose sight they were afraid. They murmured and for forty years more the city of Hebron was the home of the Anakims till Joshua conquered the land of Canaan. In the allotment it became a Levite city, the inheritance of Caleb, "who wholly followed the Lord God of Israel." In the command of the Lord to Joshua, to appoint six cities of refuge, Hebron was one of the three chosen west of the Jordan in the tribe of Judah. Into it he who took another's life by accident fled for protection from those who would become avengers of the blood unwittingly shed. Here David established his household and began his prosperous reign; all Judah clung to him from the first, but a civil war arose with the house of Saul which lasted for two years. Abner the captain of Saul's hosts was the leading spirit in the insurrection, making Ishbosheth the son of Saul king, with whom he soon quarrelled, however, and went over unconditionally to the enemy. Ishbosheth was slain and his head brought to David at Hebron, after which all the tribes of Israel came swearing allegiance to the king who grew stronger and stronger as the house of Saul grew weaker, till the elders came making a league with him in Hebron before the Lord. The Jebusites were soon conquered and David with his retinue left Hebron to enter the gates of the "Stronghold of Zion," there for more than thirty years to rule the entire Hebrew nation. Hebron was no longer a capital, but the "city of David" perhaps twenty miles away grew rich and beautiful, till the eyes of the world centered upon it and the walled city of the Jebusites became Jerusalem the golden, the synonym of that heavenly city where the tree of life is growing.

\* \* \*

We come to be skillful doers through the bungling, yet earnest, efforts of the beginning.