

PAYING OUR DEBTS

"Render therefore to all their dues." Romans 13:7.

It is a mark of thrift to owe as few people as possible. In the light of this text our debts fall into two classes.

I. What We Owe To God.

1. Fear.

"And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul; but rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell." Matthew 10:28.

We should fear God because of:--

- (1) His sovereignty.
- (2) His justice.
- (3) His power.

2. Adoration.

We should adore God because of:--

- (1) His wisdom.
- (2) His mercy.
- (3) His eternity.

3. Love.

We should love God because of:--

- (1) His excellency.

"His mouth is most sweet: yea, He is altogether lovely."
Song of Solomon 5:16.

- (2) His love to us.

"He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love. In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him. Herein, is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us, and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins." I John 4:8-10

4. Desire.

"Whom have I in heaven but thee? And there is none upon earth that I desire beside thee." Psalm 73:25

We should desire God because:--

- (1) He is the ocean of happiness in Himself.
- (2) He is the fountain of happiness to us.

5. Trust.

"Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding." Proverbs 3:5

In telling us how Abraham was justified by faith, Paul said that "He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God." Romans 4:20

We should trust in God's promises because of:--

- (1) His freedom in making them.
- (2) His faithfulness in keeping them.

6. Gratitude.

"In every thing give thanks for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you." I Thessalonians 5:18.

We should be thankful to God for:--

- (1) His creation.
- (2) His preservation.
- (3) His redemption.
- (4) His salvation.

We exclaim with Jacob, "I am not worthy of the least of all the mercies, and of all the truth, which thou hast shewed unto thy servant." Genesis 32:10.

7. Obedience.

"Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice." I Samuel 15:22.

Our obedience to God should be:--

- (1) Sincere.
"Ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you." Romans 6:17.
- (2) Constant.
"That we being delivered out of the hand of our enemies might serve Him without fear, in holiness and righteousness before Him, all the days of our life." Luke 1:75

II. What We Owe To Others.

1. Good will.

"Honor all men." I Peter 2: 17.
Do not entertain evil thoughts of others.
Respect the rights of all others.

2. Good words.

"Speak not evil one of another, brethren." James 4:11.
"I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men."
I Timothy 2:1.

"But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you." Matthew 5:44.

3. Good deeds.

We must be just and honest to all.
"Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets." Matthew 7:12.

III. Why Should We Pay Our Debts?

1. God commands it.

"Render therefore to all their dues."

2. Failure to do so is robbery.

(1) It is to rob God.

(2) It is to rob others.

(3) It is to rob yourself.

a. Of the comforts of a good conscience.

b. Of joy in the Holy Spirit.

c. Of the favor of God.

"But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid His face from you, that He will not hear." Isaiah 59:2.

"And all these blessings shall come on thee, and overtake thee, if thou shalt hearken unto the voice of the Lord thy God." Deuteronomy 28:2.

"For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad." II Corinthians 5: 10.

"Render therefore to all their dues."