

## **What I Owe My Home Congregation**

**By Wendell Bennett**

Unto the church of my Lord in every locality, I am under solemn obligation to the extent of my ability, but unto my home congregation I am under special obligation.

1) I want my home congregation to radiate a wholesome influence in the community. Therefore, I owe it the example of a good life. For it, I must live "soberly, righteously and godly" (Matt. 5:13-16).

2) I want the strangers who enter the door of the meeting house to feel at home, to learn to love us, and to return from time to time. They are guests; I must greet them. I owe it to them and to the church to show myself friendly. I must not stand back and wait for others to greet them; this I must do (Heb. 13:2).

3) No congregation can make progress without faithful and efficient leaders. To a certain extent, the members of the church make or break their leaders. To the end that our leaders may be stronger and more efficient, I must give them my support. As long as they are true men, I must not embarrass them in their work.

4) My home congregation has financial obligations which are due at regular intervals. Whether I give or do not give, these obligations must be paid. If it is right for my congregation to pay its obligations each week, it is right for me to give each week. Though circumstances may force me to be absent at times, my contributions must find their way into the treasury of the church (1Cor. 16:1-2).

5) I know that the very existence of any congregation depends upon the attendance of its members. In fact, the attendance is the life of the church. For this reason, I must attend the services -- all of the services I can. I will not have it said that my home congregation perished because I would not attend services (Heb. 10:25).

6) I want my home congregation to grow, to multiply in membership. Therefore, I must set myself to the noble work of winning souls for Christ.

Wishing to be honest, I must meet my obligations to the best of my ability. I must, with the help that God gives, play my part in the incomparable work of building the body of Christ which He purchased with his own precious blood.

### **Wealth Success and Love**

A woman came out of her house and saw three old men with long white beards sitting in her front yard. She did not recognize them. She said, "I don't think I know you, but you must be hungry. Please come in and have something to eat."

"Is the man of the house home?" they asked.

"No," she said. "He's out."

"Then we cannot come in," they replied.

In the evening when her husband came home, she told him what had happened. He said to her, "Go tell them I am home and invite them in." The woman went out and invited the men in.

"We don't go into a house together," they replied.

"Why is that?" she wanted to know.

One of the old men explained: "His name is Wealth," he said pointing to one of his friends, and said pointing to another one, "He is Success, and I am Love." Then he added, "Now go in and discuss with your husband which one of us you want in your home."

The woman went in and told her husband what was said. Her husband was overjoyed. "How nice," he said. "Since that is the case, let us invite Wealth. Let him come and fill our home with wealth."

His wife disagreed. "My dear, why don't we invite Success?"

Their daughter-in-law was listening from the other corner of the house. She jumped in with her own suggestion: "Would it not be better to invite Love. Our home will be filled with love."

"Let us heed our daughter-in-law's advice," said the husband to his wife. "Go out and invite Love to be our guest."

The woman went out and asked the three old men, "Which one of you is Love? Please come in and be our guest."

Love got up and started walking toward the house. The other 2 also got up and followed him. Surprised, the lady asked Wealth and Success: "I only invited Love, why are you coming in?"

The old men replied together: "If you had invited Wealth or Success the other two of us would've stayed out, but since you invited Love, where he goes, we go with him." Wherever there is Love, there is also wealth and success.

### **Who is Righteous?**

Pop psychology tells us that if you really believe you are someone special, if you really believe you are a good, righteous, moral, virtuous person, then "presto," you become that kind of person! Not so, but you must actually think virtuous thoughts and do virtuous deeds to be a virtuous person. "Make sure no one deceives you; the one who practices righteousness is righteous" (1John 3:7).

### **The Lord and Lincoln**

The contest between Stanton and Lincoln for the office of president began with Stanton treating Lincoln with contempt. He called Lincoln "a low cunning clown" and nicknamed him "the original gorilla."

"A person was a fool," Stanton claimed, "to wander about in Africa trying to capture a gorilla when he could find one so easily in Springfield, Illinois." However, Lincoln did not respond in kind. And, when Lincoln was elected president, he appointed Stanton as his war minister because he was the best man for the job. He treated Stanton with every courtesy. On the night when the assassin's bullet murdered Lincoln in the theatre, in a little room where the President's body lie, there stood Stanton, looking down on the silent face of Lincoln in all its ruggedness. Stanton spoke through his tears, "There lies the greatest ruler of men the world has ever seen. There lies a man of steel and velvet." The patience of love had conquered in the end. Beloved, "Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good" (Rom. 12:21).

"It is fit and becoming in all people, at all times, to acknowledge and revere the Supreme Government of God; to bow in humble submission to His chastisement; to confess and deplore their sins and transgressions in the full conviction that the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom; and to pray, with all fervency and contrition, for the pardon of their past offenses, and for a blessing upon their present and prospective action." (Abraham Lincoln, declaring a National Day of Prayer and Fasting following the Battle of Bull Run)

### **A Moments Wisdom**

--A good angle to approach any problem is the TRY-angle.

--Digging for the facts is better than jumping to conclusions.

--An eye for an eye only makes the world blind.

--The day the power of love overrules the love of power, the world will know peace.

--Truly loving God is loving Him like a Hero who actually saved you from stuff rather than as a Santa Claus who merely gave you some stuff.