

**GRACE AND GOLD,
OR, SCRIPTURAL
GIVING**

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Grace and gold, or, Scriptural giving by W. J. Fowler

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W. J. FOWLER

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Grace and Gold

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Scriptural Giving.

BY

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"The earth is the Lord's, and the fulness thereof."

"To Him shall be given of the gold of Sheba."

"For ye know the grace of Our Lord Jesus Christ."

"See that ye abound in this grace also."

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P R E F A C E .

One department of the Life and Work of the Church of God is discussed in the following chapters. The "Church in the Wilderness" under the past dispensation, and the "Church of God" under the present, is one. The Angel of the Covenant, under the former, is the Lord Jesus Christ under the latter dispensation. There is but one High Priest after the order of Melchizedek—even Jesus Christ. The scarlet thread runs through both the Old and the New Testament Scriptures. So, also, does God's plan for the maintenance of His Church, and the extension of His Kingdom. "The Law and the Prophets were until John; since that time the Kingdom of God is preached, and every man presseth into it. And it is easier for heaven and earth to pass than one tittle of the law to fail." Jesus Christ thus speaks of the permanency of the Law of God, and although we are under grace we do not thereby make void the Divine law. As Paul wrote: "Do we then make void the law through faith? God forbid: yea, we es-

tablish the law." God, in His Incarnate Son, "condemned sin in the flesh, that the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us who walk after the Spirit." In the Scriptures God reveals His righteous and gracious claims upon His people. His dealings with His people in the past are revealed, that we may understand His dealings with His Church in the present. In emphasizing the Church's needs we may have neglected to make known clearly and fully God's claims upon His people. The needs of the Church, both in men for the ministry and in money to carry on her God-given work are apparent. We know these facts. Why should we not clearly see and obediently follow God's revealed plan for the supply of His Church's needs? When in faith we consecrate our first-born to the Lord, and pray the Lord of the harvest to raise up laborers there will be men. When in like faith we lay by in store as God prospers us, and willingly, lovingly, and obediently give our first-fruits, our tithes, and our offerings unto the Lord there will be money. I am fully persuaded that the Church to-day requires *to see and believe in God's claims upon*

her, and carry out in her life more fully His plan for the supply of her needs.

The *purpose* of this book is to seek to show from the Scriptures something of God's revealed plan for the maintenance of His Church and something of the definiteness of His claims upon our substance to the end that we may recognize His plan and yield a trustful, loving obedience to His claims. Let the Church of God in her leadership and in her membership believe in the righteousness of God's claims upon her substance. Let that belief manifest itself in loving obedience. Where it does so manifest itself in her life and work it will make for righteousness, and for the extension of Christ's Kingdom. As God reveals in the Scriptures His plan of Salvation, so He also reveals His plan for the maintenance of His Church.

The history of the Christian Church on this continent during the last thirty years gives unmistakable evidence that, alas! too often, men's plans have usurped the place of God's plan. The frequent conformity of the Church to the

ways of the world in raising money for her work at home and abroad clearly shows this. The Church professes to believe that "God's ways are higher than man's ways, and God's thoughts than man's thoughts." God has given us a revelation of His thoughts about this matter, and of His way whereby He would have His Church maintained and His Kingdom extended. In this money loving age, when the commercial spirit is so strong in the world, we must face the vital problem. Shall the Church of God follow the thoughts and ways of the world more and more, or shall she repent and return to God and think His thoughts as revealed in the Scriptures, and choose His way as therein made known, and walk in it? The Church cannot follow Christ and the world any more than she can serve both God and mammon. The more closely she does follow Christ, the greater shall be her spiritual life and power, and her separateness from the world. Not only do the Scriptures teach this, but it is illustrated in the past history of the Church. May the Spirit of God give the Church clearer vision of God's plan for her maintenance at home, and extension abroad; clearer vision

of His righteous and gracious claims upon her substance ; and may he persuade and enable her to act in the light of this clearer vision.

W. J. F.

Little River, Musquodoboit, N. S.

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