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# God's fellow labourers

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Class of '77.

"God's fellow-labourers."

Our connection with this School presupposes that God has spoken to us in a peculiar manner. He hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation. As we face this awfully responsible work, or shutting out the objection & confirming our view to the subjective phase of the work; or to narrow it still more & consider the work of preparation alone, are we not compelled to fall back upon something that is fundamental for our inspiration? From our Lord's instructions to the



disciples on the evening of the Last Supper in regard to a preparation for their going forth, we understand that a special preparation is necessary in order to meet this call, namely that one qualify himself to render his best service. Which implies (1) that he must so develop his physical powers as to be able to endure hardships as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. How many saints have this kind of perseverance?

Again (2) he must so discipline and store his



mind, as to be able to open his mouth with sound speech such as cannot be condemned.

(3) He should so perfect his moral nature that <sup>fully</sup> none can say an evil thing <sup>him</sup> against him. He will be able to defy criticism. Paul's advice to Titus is in point "Let no man despise thee."

(4) He will cultivate that spirituality which will fit him for a teacher and leader of all the people.

Amid his arduous labor, is it not plain that a preacher needs a source of inspiration to which he may recur by day and by night? Is it



not proper that we should thoughtfully, candidly, prayerfully examine the motives that have and do impell our lives; and consider one that has been prominent in the history of God's most earnest servants? Few, if any, will claim that either of the selfish motives — the hope of future rewards, or fear of final punishment — or that one springing from a sense of obligation to the Creator leads men to truly trust him. There is one that will — it comes to the man who realizes that he is working



for and with God.

While the call to the ministry should be the deepest conviction of the soul that engages in this work, such soul can only attain its highest usefulness by an equally profound realization of its exalted mission.

That is by a true appreciation that he is "a coworker with God." This we hold is the mightiest motive that can sway a human life.

Let us look at the probable fruits of such a belief. First we call attention to its tendency to free



one from laziness, which is a kind of dry rot among the ministry of today, and justly brings the contempt of Masters in every department of life upon the average religious teacher. Second - it will fire the soul & with an enthusiasm that will excite latent powers, arouse slumbering energies, and quicken the whole being with an unknown life. How shall we account for the wondrous life & work of the maid of Orleans, unless we believe she was sincere in her conviction that she was in league



with divine power, and under the guidance of Heaven's King? — though we <sup>doubt</sup> the reality of any such relationship.

Who can explain the marvellous career of Mohammed and its miraculous results, otherwise than to accept that he too was honest in his belief that he was the prophet of the one true God?

But — thirdly — all will admit that this conviction will have a strong tendency to make a man true.

Fourthly — It will give an intensity to his life that will be felt by all



who come in contact with him. What was it that gave such power to the prophets, and Apostles of Christianity, What makes the lives of Moses and Paul stand out in universal history as ~~the~~ the men of all time, but the intensity of those lives? See Moses talking face to face with God, pleading for his presence in the Camp of Israel, and his leadership on the march. Actually refusing to go onward, unless God will accompany them.



Paul's writings show how highly he valued this as a motivating power. Several times he refers to the dignity of his work as a "co-worker," "a laborer together with" God. And we also see it recognized by others of the Apostles, both by those who walked with the Lord in the days of his flesh, and those of later periods who have gone out through all the earth.

What other consideration will so excite desire for a pure, strong and noble manhood, as the thought that we are thus associated



with the Holy One?

We are led to conclude  
that only as a preacher  
of the Gospel is possessed  
by this conviction, and guided  
to its inspirations will he  
approach his best life.