

Turn to 1 Corinthians 9. I'll read the first 23 verses from the NIV. . . . This is a very interesting passage in which Paul writes to the Corinthian believers. It has a number of thoughts which I think have important significance for us. I would like to look particularly at some of these.

We notice that Paul in several verses presents the fact that Christians have a duty to support Christian workers. I think Christian people need to learn this. It is easy for a congregation not to realize their duty to take care of those who are serving them in the Lord.

Especially in a day when prices are going up, and everyone is earning more and having to spend more, it is easy to leave the raising of salaries of ministers and support of Christian work behind. When we have something like a recession coming, many people will stop their missionary offerings and drop the church before they drop others. This ought not to be. Christians have a duty to do their part in supporting the Lord's work.

You take churches as a whole (although there are many exceptions) they fall far short of their duty in this regard. Some years ago we had a student who started a church about a dozen miles away from the seminary. In those days it was very hard for our students to get employment. There were very few opportunities of earning, though of course their expenses were far less than they are now.

He went on a bus these 12 miles. He started this church and during the years he was in seminary he preached at it and it gradually grew. Then he left and another student took it over. After this student had been there a few months, one day I was told he had stopped eating in the dining room. We had a rule then that all students who lived in the dorm--most of our students were single in those days-- and he had said he would not be able to eat any more in the dining room. He also --they also told me that he owed a bill for two or three months back that had not been paid.

I got in touch with him and asked him about it. He said he was now buying a couple of small cans he would eat in his room and get along very well. He said that ~~he~~ what the church was paying him was only enough to pay for his bus fare and practically nothing over. He'd not been able to pay his board bill. He was not able to continue eating there.

I told him our rule was he had to eat there if he was living in the dormitory. All our students then who lived in the dorm were required to eat there. He did not see how he could possibly do it. I said, Can't they give you more? No, he said, they could not. He told me how the previous man who had been there was receiving just the amount he was receiving, and had been spending about 20 hrs. a week ironing in order to support himself and pay necessary expenses. He said, The ~~people~~