

And, in view of that, I think we can safely say, that if the church were to succeed in building a new social order, in establishing justice, and social betterment all through a very large ~~1~~ section of this world, and by so doing were to neglect the primary business of reaching individuals for Christ, and witnessing to the ends of the earth, that the Lord would say that they had been unfaithful to His command, and would cast ~~them out of his~~ them out of his ..... Because, this is the ~~prkx~~ primary command, and ~~we~~ if we are not fulfilling this, all else is nothing.

So this is, then, the primary ~~bx~~ business of the church. But let us go on to ~~number two~~ number two. Let us /see what the apostolic church did. Number two, the apostolic church showed a most remarkable lack of interest in social improvement. Now that is a strange statement, but one which is ~~1~~ not difficult to prove. The apostolic church showed a most remarkable lack of interest in ~~the~~ social ~~improvement~~ improvement. Think of the conditions when ~~Jesus was~~ Jesus was here upon earth. The Romans were ruling, and an emperor at Rome ~~he~~ gave his commands, and these commands were carried out, better or worse according to the degree or whim or ability of his representatives. But the ~~the~~ conquered nations were held under the iron heel of the Roman legions. And the Jews were very restive, under this situation. And they were anxious to gain their freedom from the Romans, and only ~~thirty~~ 30 years after the death of Christ they made a great rebellion against the Romans and did everything possible to win freedom from the Romans. And in the face of this situation on the part of the Jews, most of whom were thoroughly convinced that the Roman oppression was utterly wicked and wrong, some ~~men~~ men came to the Lord Jesus Christ and asked Him ~~if~~ if it was lawful to give tribute to Caesar or not. And you remember that Jesus said to them, "Render unto Caesar the things which be Caesar's, and unto God the things which be God's." He did not say a word which they could take as showing that he favored rebellion against Caesar, or an attempt to do away with the Roman oppression. We find other parallels, of course, in His statements and in the attitude of His disciples. That they should be subject to Caesar and