**THE EXPOSITION OF HOLY SCRIPTURE BY ALEXANDER MACLAREN**

**EXODUS-028. RANSOM FOR SOULS: PART 2. by ALEXANDER MACLAREN**

*"The rich shall not give more, and the poor shall not give less than half a shekel ..."*

*Exodus 30:15*

This tax was exacted on numbering the people. It was a very small amount, about fifteen pence, so it was clearly symbolical in its significance. Notice--

**I. The broad principle of equality of all souls in the sight of God. Contrast the reign of caste and class in heathendom with the democracy of Judaism and of Christianity.**

**II. The universal sinfulness. Payment of the tax was a confession that all were alike in this: not that all were equally sinful, but all were sinful, whatever variations of degree might exist.**

There is no difference, for all have sinned and come short of the glory of God.

**III. The one ransom. It was a prophecy of which we know the meaning. Recall the incident of the stater in the fish's mouth.**

Christ declares His exemption from the tax. Yet He voluntarily comes under it, and He provides the payment of it for Himself and for Peter.

He does so by a miracle.

The Apostle has to take and give it; so faith is called into exercise.

Thus there is but one Sacrifice for all; and the poorest can exercise faith and the richest can do no more. None other name.