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

**NUMBERS-009. SERVICE A GIFT by ALEXANDER MACLAREN**

*"... I have given your priest's office unto you as a service of gift."*

*Numbers 18:7*

All Christians are priests--to offer sacrifices, alms, especially prayers; to make God known to men.

**I. Our priesthood is a gift of God's love.**

We are apt to think of our duties as burdensome. They are an honour and a mark of God's grace.

**They are His gift--**

**(a)** The power to do. All capacities and possessions from Him.

**(b)** The wish to do. Worketh in you to will.

**(c)** The right to do, through Christ.

**They are a blessing.**

**(a)** Note the good effects on ourselves--the increase of fellowship with Him, the strengthening of all holy desires.

**(b)** The future benefits. Apply this to prayer and to effort on behalf of our fellow-men.

**II. Our priesthood is to be done as a service--under a sense of obligation to a master, with diligence (an [Greek: ergon], not a [Greek: parergon]).**

**III. Our priesthood is to be done as a gift to God--to be done joyfully, giving ourselves back to Him: Yield yourselves unto God--your reasonable service.**

Then only do we really possess ourselves, and all things are ours, for we are Christ's, and Christ is God's.