Difficult Scriptures

I. Scripture: Luke 16:9

II. How This Verse Is Misused By Some

Some misread this verse to say that we in the Church should use our money to make friends among the people of this world (i.e., to make friends of the world through unrighteous mammon).

III. True Explanation

- A. Notice the setting of the parable in which this statement occurs. Christ was talking to His own disciples (verse 1). After giving the parable, He then began to expound its meaning to them (verse 8).
- B. Through this analogy Christ was showing them that the unconverted are wiser on many occasions than the converted, and that the converted ought to correct this by doing a particular thing.
- C. In verse 9 He shows us how to correct this lack of wisdom by making to ourselves friends with or by means of (proper translation from the Greek) the mammon of unrighteousness. That, "when ye fail" (or, more correctly in the Greek, "when you die") those (friends) who have been converted through the aid of your tithes and offerings may receive you into God's Kingdom at the resurrection.
- D. Christ was not telling His disciples to make friends of the world through unrighteous mammon, but to help convert some in the world through the proper use of mammon -- tithes, offerings, etc. Notice verses 10 and 11, which carry on the context and show we should be faithful in using our money wisely -- by investing it in God's Work.