

THE TITHE IS AN AUTOMATIC REVOLVER

By Dan B. Brummitt

Of all the plans, methods, devices, schemes, and proposals for financing the work of the church, the tithe is the only one which always and everywhere collects itself!

This is a pretty tall statement, but its reasonableness can be easily shown. There are three proofs, at least.

The tither either keeps his tithe in a separate purse or a box or keeps an account of his income, and of his offerings. Otherwise he couldn't possibly tithe.

A pretty large proportion of non-tithers keep no detailed, concrete account of their "giving." They keep one in their feelings usually; but that record operates like a deranged taximeter: it registers at least twice for every revolution of the wheels. Few non-tithers realize how little they give.

The tither never looks at his accumulating tithe and thinks it is too large. If he did, that moment he would cease to be a tither.

The non-tither looks less frequently at his ability and more often at the multiplying "calls."

This is the reason that an increase in statements of need tends to draw less money out of non-tithing pockets, by the law of diminishing returns. Tales of need soon cease to excite friendly interest; rather they irritate and dismay, when the individual has passed the point of giving "all he can afford."

The tither never thinks of the tithe as his own, and therefore he pays it out promptly in behalf of its owner.

The non-tither thinks of all his money as his own, until the moment of parting from it. So he is inclined to delay the separation as long as possible, and postpone it to the day of his death if he can.

Among all the innumerable benefits of the tither, O brethren, who fear its legalism and its literalism, is this: cheerfully and promptly and without asking any discount for cash it collects itself. With every revolution of the sun which brings new income to the tither, the tithe also revolves into full-orbed view. It is an absolute safe and harmless automatic revolver!

NOT FORGETTING MAL. 3:10

William H. Phelps

More Than a Method

The tithe has gradually ceased to be with me a matter of money and has come to be an affair of the heart. I am apt to forget that it is a method, even God's original method, for raising money. I have been watching it lift ideals and standards and horizons. It has even lifted me and raised my values. I know, for I was there when it was done.

It is a Fact!

He who runs through the churches can read in big letters why some of them are at low ebb. They are cluttered with the junk of money-raising devices that are neither impious nor immortal, but you just watch them scrapped when the church gets its nerve and begins to tithe! Are there not churches so busy raising their finances that they can only dream of getting out and reaching folks? To free their hands would be to free their souls as well, and would set them going for God. The titheless church is likely to be a nerveless

church; it dare not move unless the Aid Society chart the whole way or some rich member pave it for them. Finance is a ball and chain in many a church. Tithing would give it wings for leaden weights.

Abundant Proof

Is it not so written in the Book of the Prophets, and in the experiences of thousands witnessing churches? Have we not seen the rising and falling of churches in our very midst? Has not Malachi 3:10 been demonstrated again and again among us? I can mentally call the roll of the churches that I have seen lifted by the tithe. I can call another roll of people and churches who are being shrivelled because they would not squarely face the step that took faith and decision of character.

I know a man, in the body, too, who loves me for steadying him in a crisis, and who witnesses that God flung that message out to him one night, and he lifted up his doubting heart and answered it, and has been walking ever since in a wondrous path with the God of the challenge. He believes Malachi 3:10. So do I.

CONDENSED "LAYMEN" EXPERIENCES

In my opinion children enjoy tithing more than older people. Of one thing I am sure, both by experience and observation, the size or amount of our gifts bears an extremely small relation to the pleasure of giving. This applies to people of all ages.

I have never either sought or received many testimonials from wealthy people or large givers. What they give is interesting as news and as we think of the good their large gifts will help in having done. There is one fact, however, about them which is of the utmost interest and importance. I have never known or heard of a giver of very large amounts in this or any other country who did not commence tithing very early in life.

John D. Rockefeller, Mrs. Russell Sage, William Colgate, Samuel Inslee, William E. Dodge, John Stewart Kennedy, M. W. Baldwin, John H. Converse, Maurice K. Jessup—the list could be indefinitely extended—are familiar examples. They were all tithers from childhood or early youth.

This is a fitting place and opportune time to put in a single sentence the experience of an average lifetime. I have never seen or known a long-faced tither. All I have ever known wear smiling faces. Knowing, as we all do, that the seat and source of all real happiness is within us, is not this fact of the utmost significance?

"War arouses all the brute in a man and a flood of passion drowns all kindly feeling. War creates a profession that perfects itself into a science. War creates standards of honor as false as those which supported dueling. War teaches that revenge is a virtue and retaliation a patriotic duty."—William Jennings Bryan—Heart and Life.

"You may reach all the requirements of physical perfection, and be nothing but a fashion dummy."—The Free Methodist.

The Holy Ghost is the only means of communication between Divinity and humanity. Stop, when you hear His voice. Let silence reign when He speaks.

OUR CONQUEROR

The grave was empty where he lay;
The angel rolled the stone away.
The Roman soldiers swooned with fright,
Became like dead men at the sight
Of Heavenly glory round the tomb,
That slew forever Calvary's gloom.

He who had suffered death's cruel throes—
So unresisting to his foes—
Came forth a victor in the fight,
The tomb of faith he filled with light.
From cruel death he pulled the sting;
Around the grave now anthems ring.

Oh, glorious resurrection morn,
When faith and hope anew were born,
In hearts once deadened by the gloom
That held their Lord within the tomb.
They heard the words the angels said:
They saw him risen from the dead.

He rose to be a conquering king;
He rose and gave to faith its wing
To rise above the world and sin,
Blest immortality to win.
For resurrection power doth save
And plants its flowers on the grave.

Yea, we are risen with Christ in love,
To seek those things that are above.
That never fail like earthly toys;
Eternal are the heavenly joys.
While those who higher things despise
Shall know the death that never dies.

W. E. S.

I have always believed the story about Jonah and the whale. I preach about it and write songs about it. Of course, I know it was a big fish, even though it was not a whale. I just ran across the following in a newspaper. What do you think of it anyway. Think it could swallow you. Eh?

Norfolk, Va., Jan. 24.—Capture of a whale 86 feet long and weighing 156 tons, was reported here yesterday by Capt. J. Hansen, of the Norwegian whaling steamer Peder Bogen, which is in port loading coal and supplies for the whaling fleet now in the Ross sea and South Shetland.

"The heart of the monster weighed three and a half tons, its tongue one and a half tons; and its liver more than two tons, according to Captain Hansen, who expressed belief that the whale was 'the popper of them all.'"

"The Norwegian skipper reported more whales are being caught this season than in many years and that each of the ships engaged in the industry will make big money."—The Whole Bible News.

Holiness is the architectural plan on which God buildeth up His living temple.—Herald of Holiness.

The keeping power of God is a blessing that is applicable to those who have got little, but it equally, or even more fully, applies to those who have got the greatest blessing.—J. Elder Cumming.

People are possessed by demons of murder, booze, lasciviousness, selfishness, greed, etc., today as they were in the days of Christ. There is no remedy equal to the case now except the one used then. Think!—Christian Witness.