

"WILL A MAN ROB GOD?"

What a question! "Will a man rob God?" Who would ever think of trying to rob God? When robbery of any kind is committed it is generally under cover of night, or at a time when no human eye can see, or when those being robbed are either overpowered or intimidated into fear and silence. Any one with but a moment of thought would know that none of these plans would work on God. He never "slumbers or sleeps," and there is no possibility of intimidating or overpowering Him. The thought of trying to rob God would seem absurd. Yet the fact is stated to us that this very thing is done. That is, it was done, and I venture it is still being done. He says: "Ye have robbed me . . . in tithes and offerings." As our law places certain judgment upon men for the crime of robbery, so God places His sentence upon those who rob Him and says: "Ye are cursed with a curse; for ye have robbed me, even this whole nation."

Robbery would not be a crime if there were no law against it. No such statement as the one at the head of this brief article would ever have been made if there had not been a Divine law concerning God's tithe.

Robbery is defined as: "Theft; the felonious and forcible taking away the money and goods of another." (Webster).

Now the question arises: Does the tithe belong to God? Does he claim it as His own? I read, "And all the tithe of the land, whether of the seed of the land, or of the fruit of the tree; is the Lord's; it is holy unto the Lord . . . And concerning the tithe of the herd, or of the flock, even of whatsoever passeth under the rod, the tenth shall be holy unto the Lord." (Lev. 27:30-32).

There are many passages of Scripture that insist on the tithe being the Lord's; being brought into the Lord's House, etc., but this one portion quoted is sufficient to warrant the caption of this article: "Will a man rob God?" If the tithe is the Lord's and is holy unto the Lord, then it surely is plain robbery to deliberately take that which belongs to Him. The tithe is not mine, it is the Lord's. "The tenth is the Lord's, it is holy unto the Lord." It appears to me to withhold the tithe, to not faithfully give the tenth to the Lord's treasury to take it and use it for myself, or any purpose that is not prescribed by the Lord as to its lawful use and distribution, is surely to "rob God." This also appears to me as poor business for Christians to be engaged in, inasmuch as they are to meet God in judgment and settle accounts with Him.

Have you been guilty of robbing God? Have you taken His tithe, that which is holy unto Him? Are you doing it now? To save running the risk of robbing God there is only one thing to do, and that is to definitely and faithfully lay aside the tithe for Him. Definitely and carefully and with a sense of divine worship, take the tenth and lay it away as the Lord's and see to it that it is used only for His work. Don't run the risk of robbing God by failing to definitely pay the tithe, or tenth. Few people ever give equal to the tithe who do not faithfully tithe. And, less seldom does a person give more than the tithe who does not systematically and definitely tithe.

God says: "Bring ye all the tithe into the storehouse," and this is what every Christian should do. I heard a preacher say lately that "Every Christian who had been definitely and

genuinely sanctified wholly, was a tither." "Will a man rob God?"

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MORE THAN CONQUERORS

"In all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us" (Rom. 8:37).

If you are more than conqueror, you will take your enemies, and make them serve you. What do I mean? Why, this: When you have such a victory as that, you will take the very enemies that fight you and the very forces that are arrayed against you, and make them steps up to Heaven. The Gospel is so arranged, and the gift of God so great, that you may just take these things and use them and make them forces to bear you on. You know that when one army is more than conqueror it is likely to drive the other from the field, get all the ammunition, food, and other supplies, and take possession of the whole. That is just what the Apostle means here. There are spoils to be taken! Beloved, do you take them? When you went into that terrible valley of suffering did you come out of it with spoils? When that injury struck you and you thought everything was gone, did you so trust in God that you came out richer than you went in? To be more than conquerors is to take the spoils from the enemy and appropriate them to ourselves. When Dr. Moon, of Brighton, England, was stricken with blindness, he said: "Lord, I accept this talent of blindness from Thee. Help me to use it for Thy glory, that at Thy coming Thou mayest receive thine own with usury." Then God enabled him to invent the Moon alphabet for the blind, by which thousands of blind people are enabled to read the Word of God, and many of them were gloriously saved.—*Sel.*

HOT LIGHTNING

Tallahassee, Ala., Aug. 5.—While riding one of a mule team with which he was hauling timber to the railroad, Luverne Haynie, a 19-year-old white boy, was instantly killed yesterday by lightning which came from an apparently clear sky.

Two negroes and a dog, taking refuge from the intense heat under the sheltering branches of an oak tree beside the road, were hit by the same bolt and one negro and the dog instantly killed, while the other was knocked unconscious. All four of the mules in the team were killed.

The heat of the lightning, according to those who visited the scene, welded the links of the trace chains on the harness.

If ordinary lightning can accomplish so much, why should it be thought impossible for the Baptism of the Holy Ghost to kill the inward "old man" and burn out all remaining evil, root and branch? Matt. 3:11.—Perfect Love.

It is amazing to think that a little body of people, nobodies socially, without learning and without prestige or political power—to think that that little group should grow and grow and grow, and kindle lights in one land after another until by and by they lit a lamp in the palace of the Caesars and set the cross of Jesus above the screaming eagles of Rome. They were baptized with the Holy Ghost.—*Charles E. Jefferson.*

"I MADE YOU! I BOUGHT YOU!"

A beautiful model yacht was made by one who spent much labor in perfecting it in every detail.

When it was finished he took it down to the river and sailed it on the bright water. To his great sorrow it broke away from his hold and floated down the stream further and further from him and so was lost.

Some time passed when one day going by a second hand dealer's store, he saw a battered, broken model ship was for sale. He went in and having examined it carefully, asked the price. Quite a considerable sum was demanded, for the model was a good one. However, he paid what was required and received the ship into his arms. Then lifting it up he exclaimed, "I made you and I bought you." It was his own workmanship. The lost yacht had been found. But he had had to purchase that which he himself had formed.

Thus it is with the work of the Creator in the case of the sinner. He made us for His glory and praise but we broke away from Him. We were lost to God.

"Adam where are thou?" was the question asked in Eden. Adam was hiding from God, or rather he was attempting to do so, for none can hide really from His all-seeing gaze. But Adam was lost to his Creator, who was walking in that garden of delights in which He had placed His creature.

Since then all have been born outside of Paradise. Like the prodigal of Luke XV, the sinner is away from home in the far country of sin and seeking to satisfy himself. But all in vain. One may gratify his taste and carry out his desires but he can never find rest and gladness away from God.

In grace the Son of God was given. In grace He came to suffer and to die. His precious blood was shed as the purchase price of our redemption. He who made us, suffered for us at Calvary. He made us for Himself. He has redeemed us for Himself. We are His by creation. We are His by Purchase. "YE ARE NOT YOUR OWN, YE ARE BOUGHT WITH A PRICE THEREFORE GLORIFY GOD IN OUR BODY" (I. Cor. 6:19-20).—Selected.

A BILLION HEATHEN

There are over 1,000,000,000 heathen in the world, forty million of whom die every year, or approximately at the rate of one hundred thousand each day. In order to make these figures easier to comprehend let me put them in smaller numbers. Every time you draw your breath four benighted souls slip into eternity. One for whom Christ died passes out into darkness every time the clock ticks! Three out of every four people in the world have not yet heard that God loves them. Think of this! Then ask yourself what you have done to give them the gospel.—Missionary Ambassador.

NOT THE END

When I go down to my grave I can say, "I have finished my day's work," but I cannot say "I have finished my life." My day's work will begin the next morning. The tomb is not a blind alley; it is a thoroughfare; it closes with the twilight to open with the dawn.—*Victor Hugo.*