

# "THE TITHE -- IS THE LORD'S"

## GIVING THE TENTH TO GOD

By G. D. Watson

"Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse . . . and prove me now herewith, saith the Lord of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it."

It is no small perversion of Scripture that the passage in Malachi 3:10, about bringing the tithes into the storehouse, should always be applied to a spiritual consecration. If thousands of Christians would take it just as it reads, and begin at once to give God a tenth of all they receive, it would prove to be the keystone in the arch of a full consecration, and one of the greatest blessings of their lives, both spiritually and temporally.

Some may say that the giving of a tenth was only a Mosaic law; but this is a mistake; it was in practice by the saints of God five hundred years before the giving of the law. Abraham gave a tenth of his spoils to the priest of God (Hebrews 7:4); Jacob gave a tenth of his income to the Lord, and, so far as we know, it was the practice of Noah and the saints of earliest ages. When the Holy Spirit gets possession of a soul, He writes this principle of giving a tenth on the heart, showing it is not merely a Mosaic law, but a Holy Ghost law.

There are marvelous spiritual blessings connected with giving a tenth to the Lord; it is a wonderful stimulant to faith; it strengthens obedience on all other lines; it brings light into the mind on other subjects; it is as a safeguard against greed and stinginess; it makes benevolence a fixed affection in the soul, and not a spasmodic action; it makes us appreciate our nine-tenths far more; it makes God's special providence more real to us; it makes the conscience tender, and gives sweet access to God in prayer.

It is a great blessing financially to constantly give a tenth of all you receive to the Lord. The living God keeps His financial promises just as absolutely as He does His salvation promises. "Honour the Lord with thy substance, and with the firstfruits of all thine increase: so shall thy barns be filled with plenty" (Proverbs 3:9). How few Christians positively believe this word and steadily act on it! I have never yet met a person who regularly gave a tenth to the Lord that ever regretted it. They uniformly testify that since they have done so, they have prospered far better in all their temporal affairs. I am absolutely sure, with Mueller, that God does not want any of His children in debt, or destitute; and, if all of us who are in debt will repent of the sin of getting in debt, and promise God never to go in debt again, and to give Him one-tenth of all we receive, and stick to the covenant with a loving heart, He will begin to work financial mercies for us, and soon have us free from debt. (See Romans 13:8).

After losing my orange groves in the freeze of January, 1895, and being heavily in debt, I acted on these principles, and since I made that covenant, God has wrought undreamed-

of financial miracles. A lady thousands of miles from my home wrote me, to my surprise, saying she felt impressed of God to give me \$80 every year till my debts were paid; and many other things have happened just as marvelous. Since that covenant I have never gone a cent deeper in debt, have never been without some cash money, and have a hundredfold more assurance for all financial supplies than when I had the property. So firm is my faith on this point that if I had no postage stamp to send a letter to my family, and had some of God's tenth by me, I would not touch it to buy a stamp, but wait on my heavenly Father for it.

God will not do wonders for us till we get away from our slipshod faith and partial obedience. A great many will say they keep no regular account, they think they give about a tenth. That is the way I used to give, but I see how that is shilly-shally obedience. It will please God to give Him the tenth, and not a guess about the tenth. Then some aim to give a tenth at the end of the month, or end of the

### THE TITHE

By Ralph Cushman

"Ah, when I look up at the cross  
Where God's great Steward suffered loss  
Of life and shed His blood for me,  
A trifling thing it seems to be  
To pay a tithe, dear Lord, to Thee,  
Of time, or talent, wealth, or store—  
Full well I know I owe Thee more!  
But that is just the reason why  
I lift my heart to God on high  
And pledge Thee by this portion small,  
My life, my love, my all in all.  
This holy token at Thy cross  
I know as gold, must seem but dross.  
But in my heart, Lord, Thou dost see  
How it has pledged its all to Thee,  
That I a steward true may be."

year. This is degrading our Lord by putting self first and Him last. Honor God by putting Him and His kingdom always first, and then He will honor you. Just as soon as you receive any money, be it ever so small, take out the tenth for the Lord; do not wait till you spend the nine-tenths; do not use it all up, and promise to pay the Lord's tenth out of the next money you get; that is a slovenly shabby way of dealing with God. Treat your Lord in all these matters with the respect and honor as if He stood visibly by your side; do not be mean and stingy in your treatment of Him, but generous and prompt and free-hearted, and God will treat you like a prince, and ever and anon He will astonish you with some great favor. Be you ever so poor, old or young, married or single, parent or child, even if you have only one cent to give to God, do it religiously, lovingly, rigidly, and, as sure as you live, Omnipotence will find some way to bless you in your temporal affairs.

Will you believe this? Will you begin at once to do it? Ask the Holy Ghost to help you keep it as a holy covenant. Ask for divine guidance just where you should give the tenth; do not bestow it according to your preference, but keep your mind impartial, and the Spirit will lead you where to give it.

If you follow this rule, you will be perfectly surprised how much you can give away in a year and never miss it. I used to think I was liberal, but since giving a tenth regularly, I find I give three times as much as I used to, and do it with far more ease and comfort.

"Give, and it shall be given unto you." God's Word is true; obey it, prove it, and see for yourself.

### HOW WILLIAM COLGATE GAVE TO GOD

How William Colgate gave to God.

Many years ago a lad of sixteen left home to seek his fortune. As he trudged along, he met an old man, a captain of a canal boat, and the following conversation took place:

"Well, William, where are you going?"

"I don't know," he answered; "I must make a living for myself."

"There is no trouble about that," said the captain. "Be sure you start right, and you'll get along finely."

William told his friend that the only trade he knew anything about was soap and candle-making.

"Well," said the old man, "let me pray with you once more, and give you a little advice, and then I will let you go." They knelt down upon the tow-path and prayed, and then the old captain gave him this advice:

**"Someone will soon be the leading soap-maker in New York. It can be you as well as anyone. I hope it may. Be a good man; give your heart to Christ; give the Lord all that belongs to Him of every dollar you earn; make an honest soap; give a full pound; and I am certain you will yet be a prosperous and rich man."**

The boy arrived in the city. Lonesome and far from home he remembered his mother's words, and the last words of the canal boat captain. He was led to "seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness," and united with the church. The first dollar he earned brought up the question of the Lord's part. In the Bible he found that the Jews were commanded to give one-tenth. So he said, "If the Lord will take one-tenth, I will give Him that." And so he did; ten cents of every dollar were sacred to the Lord. He engaged in the soap business, made an honest soap, gave a full pound and instructed his book-keeper to open an account with his Lord, and carry one-tenth of all his income to that account. He prospered and grew rich faster than he had ever hoped. He then gave the Lord two-tenths, then four-tenths, then five-tenths—Millions in All.—Selected.

**"It is not 'How much can I do or give?' but 'What is the least I can hold back for myself while multitudes perish?'"—Lettie B. Cowman.**

## "WILL A MAN ROB GOD?"