

But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven where neither moth nor rust do corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal. Matthew 6:19-20.

READERS having a surplus with which the Father has blessed them should invest it wisely, for winning souls, and thus store it in Heaven. When you send tithes or offerings to Jerusalem it is used in a heavenly place where the beloved Master spent His life, and among His own race "The Chosen People."

The Bible is very plain and emphatic about the paying of tithes. It is the divine plan of heaven for everyone to have a part in the work of the Father here on earth in saving men and women. Note Leviticus 27:30 to 23. Proverbs 3:9; also Gen. 14:18 to 20.

The Levites one of the 12 tribes of Israel did not receive any inheritance when Canaan was divided, but their portion was the tithe of all the other tribes, because they were the ministers. Numbers 18:21.

Paul speaks of this and says "Even so", or in the same way hath the Lord ordained that they which preach the gospel shall live of the gospel." I Cor. 9:13, 14. This positively brings the paying of tithes over into this gospel dispensation, when its need was so greatly expanded to take the message of salvation to ALL NATIONS. Then our beloved Master said not to leave tithe paying undone. Matt. 23:23.

The tithe represents a portion of your life, because it is part of your time spent in earning worldly substance. A part of the sweat of your brow by which the Father told Adam to earn his bread. One tenth of your net earnings, is Holy unto the Lord. Malachi 3:8 to 11

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HOW TITING SOLVED

MY FINANCIAL TROUBLES

And at the Same Time Brought Me Spiritual Blessing that Far Outweighted the Material Gain

By Wade C. Smith

"Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in Mine House, 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." Malachi 3:10.

If a man owed me money and he was having a hard struggle to make a living, and by all common sense reasoning there appeared very little prospect of ever getting my money back, I would try to persuade that man to begin tithing.

I confidently believe if I could induce him to tithe his income, that is, pay one-tenth of it to the Lord, he would sooner or later pay me back every cent he owed me; because he would prosper.

Tithing solved serious financial problems for me and at the same time brought me spiritual blessing that far outweighed the material gain.

When I began tithing 21 years ago I was hopelessly in debt. Misfortune, which came when I first began to be a wage earner, plunged me deep "in the red," and, in trying to work out, repeated misfortunes came one after another

so that, like a frog endeavoring to escape from the well, when I jumped up two feet I fell back three.

That was awfully discouraging, and I had just about given up hope of ever getting out of debt—when I was persuaded to begin (rather paying) to the Lord one-tenth of what I earned.

When I was first challenged to tithe I almost smiled, it seemed so ridiculous for me to think of it. Why, I said, it would be dishonest for me to "give away" any part of my income to church or anything else, when I owed money to those who had trusted me. Before I could give money I must pay my creditors.

But I was troubled, for I was a Christian and I knew that tithing was Scriptural — that the Bible stated a definite portion (one-tenth) should be paid to the Lord.

So I prayed for light and understanding as to what really was duty in my own "peculiar" circumstance. Then there came to me this startling fact:

The Lord Was My First Creditor!

If any creditors should be given preference, it was He. He certainly had first claim on me.

Then I looked at Malachi 3:10, and I saw God saying there — that if I would trust Him and tithe, He would open the windows of heaven and pour out a blessing so big there would not be room enough to receive it. So I decided to begin tithing, and I nailed the purpose down, with Malachi 3:10.

On the first of the following month when I drew my salary I took one-tenth and put it aside for the Lord's work. During the first two months it went pretty hard, and I had to pray harder and hang on harder to Malachi 3:10.

It looked for a little while as if God had forgotten about opening the windows. But I set my jaw and him on. I kept a careful account to be sure that I was fair

with God, even to the penny.

Then Things Began to Come to Pass!

Ways came to me to earn more money — ways I never dreamed of. Altogether unexpectedly, my salary was increased. I have not space here to detail the different means that suddenly came to my hands for making more money. I wish I could tell you about it some time face to face it is like a thrilling Romance.

In less than a year I was out of debt and buying my own home. Up to that time I had lived in a rented house. I saved up something against old age.

That was all wonderful, but the greatest joy was in the dispensing of the "Lord's tenth." It grew to much more than a tenth — more than double that amount.

Formerly it made me grit my teeth to hear a missionary sermon or any appeal for money for the church or charity — I was so helplessly in debt!

But now I rejoiced for every clear call that I could believe was from the Lord for His work, because there was always something in the Lord's treasury and I was His trusted servant to hand it out.

How I wish somebody could have told me this story when I was fifteen! How much joy I have missed!

How much financial misery I have suffered! How different it could have been if I had just known! Before I began to tithe, it is full of blessing.

For twenty-two years I have not worried about money. Oh, sometimes there is close figuring, but it is always with the consciousness that the Lord, my Senior Partner, and I, are figuring together and I know it will work out—and it does: — Baptist Bible Tribune.

A GOOD INVESTMENT

"Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth where moth and rust do corrupt and where thieves break through and steal!"