

How and TO WHOM the  
TITHE Should be paid

Have you not been really severely tried, and tested, in the matter of tithe paying?

Surely this becomes a REAL TEST for many. There is the constant temptation, when hard pressed financially, to turn the tithe in LATER, thinking we cannot spare it just now.

Many a struggling Christian comes to wonder why he, or she, is having such a hard time financially. And often the very reason is unfaithfulness in tithing, either thru lack of true understanding, or thru giving in to temptation to use the tithe.

Listen! God promises a FINANCIAL BLESSING if we are faithful stewards, and HONEST in the handling of GOD'S MONEY.

We know that stealing is a sin. True, the Ten Commandments say nothing about tithing---but they do say something about stealing. If you own ~~an~~ an automobile, and I steal it and take it as mine, we might argue that the Ten Commandments say nothing about automobiles. We must look elsewhere to determine WHO OWNS property. But to TAKE that which belongs to another is stealing. And so we must look outside the Ten Commandments to learn WHO OWNS the money that comes into our possession.

God's inspired Word says ~~it~~ all belongs to HIM! The gold and the silver are all HIS! Yes, the earth and the fullness thereof. All our MONEY belongs to God, not to us. And God tells us we can have the nine-tenths, after we have paid to Him the FIRST tenth.

The tithe is not the second, the third, or the LAST tenth. It is the FIRST tenth of all our increase.

"Honor the Lord with thy substance, and with the FIRST fruits of all thine increase." (Prov. 3:9). ALL, not part.

All is to be tithed. And the tithe is the very FIRST TENTH. That belongs to

God. If we take it, it is as much stealing as if we stole a horse or a car or a watch from a man. And God Himself tells us it is STEALING---Malachi 3:8.

And the wages of sin is DEATH!

To take and use that FIRST tenth, expecting to pay the tithe later is STEALING. It is ROBBING GOD! It is just the same as a bank teller thinking he cannot wait until his salary (HIS part of the bank's money) is paid him, and because he needs money using part of the money in his cage in the bank, expecting to put it back later. Bank tellers are sent to the penitentiary for doing that. Yet many who call themselves Christians do the same thing with GOD'S money. Is it not just as bad?

The tithe---that very FIRST tenth of ALL our increase---is HOLY unto the Lord. It is profaning HIS HOLY THINGS to use it for ourselves, even for a day, just as much as profanity profanes His Holy name, and Sabbath-breaking profanes His holy day. It is commandment-breaking---SIN---and robs us of God's financial help and blessing,

and places us utterly out of reach of GOD'S PROTECTION from the soon-coming terrible PLAGUES, and writes us a one-way ticket straight into hell-fire---the second and final DEATH!

The way to avoid temptation, is not to DARE touch that first tenth. Remember it is sacred---holy---and a CURSE from Almighty God is placed upon us the minute we touch it or use it for ourselves in any way (Mal. 3:9). The way to avoid temptation is to send in the tithe more often---get it out of your own hands and into the Lord's work.

Whether you receive a dime or a thousand dollars, put temptation behind you by FIRST setting aside in a separate place, or sending it in, the FIRST TENTH---do this BEFORE you spend one cent for any purpose for yourself.

We know that fully HALF of the tithe-paying commandment-keepers are having more or less of a trial and test on this very point. It is one of the ways in which God is TESTING us. This temptation to use that first tenth which is not ours is one of the things we must OVERCOME in order to inherit the KINGDOM!

TO WHOM IT SHOULD BE PAID

In the New Testament there is not ONE SINGLE SENTENCE anywhere instructing us to pay tithe to a finance committee, or some BOARD having authority to receive and disburse the tithes to various ministers.

There is NO EXAMPLE where this was ever done. The "seven" deacons of Acts 6 were set over the business of serving tables, and ministering to the MATERIAL NEEDS of widows and orphans. This business had absolutely NOTHING WHATSOEVER to do with handling tithes, or supervising the Gospel ministry.

Paul's teaching in both Hebrews 7 and I Corinthians 9 shows that the tithe, in the NEW Testament dispensation, should be paid to the ministers of Jesus Christ.

The priesthood being changed, from Levitical to Melchisedec, or that of Jesus Christ, there is made of necessity a change also in the law respecting tithing (Heb. 7:12), so that tithes today are paid to the ministers of CHRIST, not Levites. The indication is that the tithe is to be paid to the individual minister. Certainly there is no other direction, example, or teaching, in all the New Testament Scriptures.

Much stress has been laid on the one Scripture, "Bring ye all the tithes into the STOREHOUSE." (Mal. 3:8). It is then assumed this means a NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS TREASURY, which it certainly does NOT!

In the Bible we find they had, under the Levitical priesthood, STOREHOUSES in every town and city. (Deut. 28:8; I Chron. 27:25; II Chron. 32:27-28; Neh. 13:12-13-margin, Heb. for "treasuries" is storehouses).

They tithed corn, produce, crops out of the field (Neh. 12:44). This could not be sent to some central national treasury. There was a storehouse in EVERY CITY. Notice Neh. 10:37: "in all the cities."

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The FIRSTFRUITS, or the tithe, was turned over to the individual priest, in each city, (Neh. 10:37), or to the various local treasurers of the storehouses, (Neh. 13:12-13).

Certainly it is entirely scriptural and proper for the tithe-payer to turn over his tithe to the individual minister whom he believes, by the FRUIT borne, and the RESULTS accomplished in spreading the Gospel, and the salvation of souls, with real genuine CONVERSIONS, is one of God's CALLED ministers, and an open channel for the operation of heaven's machinery set in motion for the salvation of precious souls.

Otherwise, we are dependent upon MEN who rule organized governments---and this is contrary to God's Word.

There are some ministers, now INDEPENDENT of men and man-ruled organizations, serving the Lord BY FAITH, utterly DEPENDENT upon God for every dime, whom the editor of The ~~First~~ GOOD NEWS knows, has seen put to the test under fire, and knows to be men who are HONEST AT HEART, faithfully trying to serve God BY FAITH ALONE. We believe that your tithe, sent to any of these men, will be conscientiously used to the very best of their ability in God's service.

They are Elder John Kiesz, ----- Elder Claude V. Ellis, Crow Stage, Eugene, Oregon; Elder Pete Bartschie, ----- And while we have not met them personally, we have reason to believe the same may be said for Elder C. O. Dodd, Box 222, Salem, W. Va., and Elder Snow, -----.

No doubt there are a number of other ministers who are thoroughly HONEST with the Lord, good, faithful, earnest, spiritual, sincere men, and you may know who they are. Our acquaintance with Church of God ministers has been limited to those who have come to Oregon. Those we feel we have come to really KNOW, by personal contact and by their fruits. Others we do not know.

PRAY over this matter of where to place your tithe. It is sacred and holy to the Lord. It should be placed only in the hands of those whose labors have been blessed by REAL RESULTS from the Lord--- who are open channels for God's service in getting the message out WITH POWER to great numbers, and whose efforts God has blessed with a real abundant harvest of real genuine conversions. None other is worthy of God's tithe. It is for the financing of HIS WORK. It should be placed where results show HE IS WORKING! Not where false claims, exaggerated statements, and hypocrisy and deception are used to deceive the brethren into thinking "the work is onward"---but where you KNOW that God is in the work.

And, incidentally, a good way to really KNOW what is going on here in Oregon is to WRITE to some of the Brethren here.

*Why such men?*  
*are put into the*  
*result?*  
*Send a spiritless*  
*work?*  
*Can this be*  
*the true*  
*Church of God?*  
*or only an*  
*organization of men?*