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**GOD'S GLORIOUS CHALLENGE -- A SERMON ON TITHING**  
**By Charles L. Slater of Kingswood, Kentucky**

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**01 -- TESTIMONIALS**

From John F. Owen

I have heard many Bible readings and sermons on the theme of Tithing, but the message of Brother Slater, as delivered at the Circleville, O., Camp Meeting was the most concise and unanswerable I ever heard.

I am persuaded that no one can peruse the following pages and not be stirred to practice systematic Tithing. Reader, if you have not tried it, begin now and you will find ere long that all your financial difficulties will be solved and God will be glorified. -- E. E. Shelhamer.

Rev. Charles L. Slater's sermon on tithing is one of the most thorough and vital discussions of the subject I have heard.

Here it is in print to be sent forth to instruct, to convince and to convict the people of God who have not yet recognized their privilege and obligation to tithe. Its message enforced by the Word of God should convince the reader of his obligation. Its exultant note in personal testimony and illustration should thrill and inspire the devout reader to regard it a high and joyous privilege to meet God's challenge to bring all the tithes into His storehouse that the saving ministries of the Gospel of our Lord may be amply provided for and that upon the cheerful and obedient may be poured out the Father's uncontainable blessing.

Faithfully,  
John F. Owen.

\* \* \*

From Lawrence Reed

The sermon of Rev. C. L. Slater on the subject of Tithing, as printed in this booklet, is in my opinion of superior worth and should be read by every lover of the Lord. He deals with the theme sensibly, forcibly, and Scripturally and proves conclusively that tithing is a privilege and a duty enjoined upon us by the Word of God.

Pastors should buy this booklet and distribute it among their members. Its teachings embraced and practiced will solve the financial problems of the Church. Personally I can never look upon Tithing in the same light after hearing this timely and Scriptural presentation.

In Christian love,  
Evangelist Lawrence Reed

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## 02 -- INTRODUCTION

The message I am about to bring to you is a message that has been born of the Spirit and, as you will see, a message from the Word of God. I have used it, probably, more than a hundred times. For nearly a year I used it every Sunday morning, for I was in a different place every Sunday. Through the preaching of this message hundreds of tithers have been won. In one church, North Columbus, God gave us seventy-two tithers as the result of this message. I send it out today at the request of hundreds of people. At Cincinnati alone, probably 250 people arose and earnestly begged us to have this message printed and have it sent out over the world. I claim no merit. It is truth backed by illustrations which I trust will be a blessing to all who will read it.

## The Author

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### 03 -- THE AUTHOR'S TITHING EXPERIENCE

The challenge that God has given us is the old challenge in Malachi, the 3rd chapter. You have all read it and are quite familiar with it; but there is a little clause there that I had failed to notice until the dear Lord revealed it to me. Of course it was always there, but I did not see it, and this clause is the preceding thought of the subject of tithing. In the 6th verse we read, "I am the Lord, I change not!" We are dealing with the finance of God's Church, and the subject before us has to do with money, and God introduced it by saying, "I am the Lord, I change not." Do not tell me it is only under the law, for God is the same today as He was in Abraham's time. "Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever" -- The Unchangeable God.

You will note, my subject is "God's Glorious Challenge." You will remember when we were boys and girls (of course, the girls never did this, but most boys did), we would get all swelled up, and would put a chip on our shoulder and spit in our hands and tell the boys we dared anybody to knock that chip off. Reverently speaking, God has laid down a proposition in His Book relative to finances, and I say that God has put a chip on His shoulder and says, "If you will do as I tell you, I will show you what I will do."

First, I want to testify. I believe every preacher ought to have a testimony. I want to tell you how I began to tithe. I was in the ministry, unmarried, with two young men in a meeting. We were preaching night about. We had only about enough sermons to do that. There were three of us, and we could get by with a ten days' meeting. It was my night to preach, so I stayed in my room tarrying and praying before time Lord, for His message. My co-laborers went to town that day. It was four or five miles, and they drove in an old-fashioned buckboard buggy without any back to the seat. On the way back the following happened: One of them was a mighty man of prayer, and is today one of God's prayer warriors -- W. S. D. He always prayed. He would sit and pray, or spend hours on his knees in prayer. He kept me under conviction about all the time. He was praying in the buggy as they drove along. My other co-laborer was driving, and he gave the horse a whack which caused it to jump, and Brother D. turned a somersault out of the back of time buggy. He picked himself up from the middle of the road and got back into the buggy. He said to the other brother, "I am a robber. Suppose I had broken my neck? I have never tithed." They began to talk about it and agreed between them that from that day on they would be tithers. They came home and upstairs to the room and told me their story. I had the most lonesome feeling I have ever had. I felt as if God had done something for them that He had not done for me. I said, "I am going to tithe with you; I will give God a tithe from this on." I want to testify before Heaven that it has been my privilege down through the last twenty-six years to be a conscientious tither; I have always tithed my gross income. I married a little Virginia woman. She came to my side, to my heart, and to my life to be a blessing, to lift, to encourage, and to help God make the man out of me He has been able to make. She already had the light on tithing and practiced it. We have received untold spiritual blessing by being conscientious Christian tithers. I want to testify before God that for no amount of money would I give up time joy that I receive by giving God the tithe of all my gross income.

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#### 04 -- TITHING IS COMMANDED

Now we come to you with the Bible. That was my experience. First, "Will a man rob God?" Immediately you revolt and say, "No, I would not rob God; I would not take money out of God's pocket or hold Him up; I would not do that." Of course not; nobody would do that, but He says, "Ye have robbed me." "Wherein have we robbed thee?" "In tithes and offerings." Notice what He says, "Ye are cursed with a curse: for ye have robbed me." There is a reason for the sickness; there is a reason for the curse. God will get His tithe some way. He will get it if we don't give it to Him. And we might have to give it with tears and sorrow, but He will get His tithe. "Ye have robbed me, even this whole nation. Bring 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. And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, and he shall not destroy the fruits of your ground; neither shall your vine cast her fruit before the time in the field, saith the Lord of hosts. And all nations shall call you blessed: for ye shall be a delightsome land, saith the Lord of hosts."

To tithe is a command, a Divine command. We are told in the text to bring all the tithes into the storehouse. Now that is a command. Then Paul says in I Corinthians 16:2, "Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him." Hallelujah! That is a wonderful system that God has planned so beautifully and so successfully. There is no budget plan since Abraham's time that has it bettered in taking care of God's work. You know that Paul says, "As God hath prospered you." How wonderful that God fixed it up in a way that the poor give as much as the rich. Glory to God! I don't care how poor a man is, if he is a tither God honors his gift. Here comes a man who has earned a thousand dollars. He is a tither. He brings \$100.00. Also the dear sister who is a washer woman and earns only \$5.00 a week, but she gives her tithe and shouts the victory. Her little 50 cents is equal to the man's \$100.00. God looks upon them equally. And she may have the same joy in her soul as he. Glory to God! In the sight of Heaven that poor washer woman shares proportionately in God's work with the man who gives the large amount. The coin of Heaven is not copper or silver or gold; it is love. And when you give to God out of a heart of love because you love Him, it doesn't make any difference what the amount is, if it is your tithe you have a right to shout the victory and rejoice equally with the next fellow. "As the Lord hath prospered you."

You do not need to look down your nose, if you are giving as God has prospered you; you never need to put your hand in the pan and let it slip out easy so the man next to you will not see how many pennies you put in the offering, if you are giving as God has prospered you. You can put in your offering and rejoice over it. I am talking about the Bible standard of giving.

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#### 05 -- A TITHER IS A CHEEFUL GIVER

Then it must be cheerful giving. You have to give it cheerfully or you do not get any credit for it. God loves a cheerful giver -- folks who give and shout while they are giving. Some one has said that if you give a dollar and shout the victory over it and in your soul you are grieved because it was not ten dollars, God will give you credit for ten dollars instead of one; but if you give ten dollars and say in your heart, "I ought to have given but one," you will get Heaven's credit for only one. It must be cheerful giving or it is not credited in Heaven. God credits us only with what we give cheerfully, hilariously, joyfully. Thank God!

I will give you the following illustration:

In a Mission congregation in Jamaica a collection was to be taken for missionary purposes and one of the brethren was appointed to preside. Resolutions were adopted, as follows:

Resolved: First, that we will all give.

Resolved: Second, that we will give as the Lord has prospered us.

Resolved: Third, that we will give cheerfully. Then the contribution began, each person, according to custom, walking up to deposit his gift under the eye of the presiding officer. One of the well-to-do members hung back until he was painfully noticeable and, when he at length deposited his gift, the brother at the table remarked,

"Dat is 'cordin' to de fust resolushun, but not 'cordin' to de secon'."

The member retired angrily to his seat taking back his money. But conscience or pride kept working until he came back and doubled his contribution with a crabbed "Take dat den."

The brother at the table again spoke, "Dat may be 'cordin' to the fust and secon' resolushuns, but it isn't 'cordin' to de third."

The giver after a little accepted the rebuke and came up a third time with a still larger gift and a good-natured face. Then the faithful president expressed his gratification thus,

"Dat's 'cordin' to all de resolushuns."

In 2 Cor. 9:7, "Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity; for God loveth a cheerful giver." Every man makes up his mind or comes to a conclusion, to a decision, and, when he has done this, let him give not grudgingly, (they are always taking up an offering, always begging for money). No, no, that is not the way. A tither never says those things; you never heard of a tither talking that way. "Or of necessity." Nobody has to give. Listen, a tither is a cheerful giver.

A tither is always a cheerful giver. What is the difference? I will tell you the difference. Get this! He is a cheerful giver because he always has something to give. You never saw a tither in your life who did not have something to give. Why should he not be cheerful? If he lives he must eat, and if he has something to eat, he always has something to give away. If he has ten "taters," he

has one to give away. Glory to God! There are thousands of witnesses who will tell you, under oath if necessary, that the nine "taters" will fill the pot fuller when you take out the biggest one and give it to the Lord than ten big "taters" would. Is that not so, preachers? I have preacher friends who will tell you that out of their little salaries of \$8 and \$10 per week, when they take out the tithe the money goes farther than the whole amount would otherwise. It will buy more little shoes and more flour; it will feed the babies better than when we say we are not getting enough and we can't tithe. A tither is always a cheerful giver because he has always something to give. Before I was a tither many times I was broke, but I am never broke any more. Praise the Lord I have always got something to give away! Thank God, it is so.

Suppose a rich man should say, "Mr. Slater, I do not have time to bother with giving out money to the poor. I am going to put \$200 a month in the bank to your credit to be given away to the poor. No one knows anything about this; they know only that Slater gives away money every month. Now here comes a poor old sister and I give her \$5.00, and to another \$10.00. What would that man think if he should happen to be around and I, not conscious of his presence, should say to some one in need: "You are always wanting money; you are always begging money, money, money," and yet I still have \$150.00 in the bank which is not mine, never was mine, and is not mine now? Would I not be a fine fellow if the real owner of the money would find me growling and grumbling about giving it? That would not be a cheerful giver.

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## 06 -- TITHING WAS INSTITUTED BEFORE THE LAW

Tithing was instituted before the law. (Gen. 14.) Four hundred years before the law was given, Abraham gave tithes to Melchizedek. There is not a line in the Bible to prove where that custom has ever been revoked. It is as binding now as it was in Abraham's time. I will prove it to you. Heb. 5:6-10: "As he saith also in another place, Thou art a priest forever after the order of Melchisedec, who in the days of his flesh, when he had offered up prayers and supplications with strong crying and tears unto him that was able to save him from death, and was heard in that he feared; though he were a Son yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered; and being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him; called of God a high priest after the order of Melchisedec." I want you to realize this, that Hebrews is in the New Testament. Now whom are we talking about? Jesus Christ. Let me read in Heb. 7:17, "For he testifieth, Thou art a priest forever after the order of Melchisedec." Abraham paid tithe to Melchisedec, his high priest; and the New Testament says that Jesus is our High Priest after the order of Melchisedec. And as Abraham paid tithes to his high priest, I am going to pay tithes to my High Priest. You cannot get around that argument. I am preaching out of the New Testament.

Back there when Jacob wrestled for the blessing he made a vow to God:

"And Jacob vowed a vow, saying, If God will be with me, and will keep me in this way that I go, and will give me bread to eat, and raiment to put on, so that I come again to my father's house in peace; then shall the Lord be my God; and this stone, which I have set for a pillar, shall be God's house: and of all that thou shalt give me I will surely give the tenth unto thee." -- Gen. 28:20-22. Jacob made a vow and promised God, "If you will bring me back where I will again see

my father's house, I will give Thee a tithe of all you give me." That was before the law was ever given. Friends, you know people say, "That was under the law;" but I say unto you that tithing was above the law, and before the law, amid after the law, and it shot through the law and is still here. There were some things done away with in Christ, but not tithing. You cannot show me in God's Word where tithing was ever done away with. There is plenty of evidence that tithing is a command of God to this present day.

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## 07 -- WHAT ARE WE TO TITHE?

Now we have plenty of evidence that the Jewish Sabbath was done away with, and the sacrificial offerings of bullocks, but there is not a scratch where the tithe was ever done away with. The Bible still states that the tithe is the Lord's. Lev. 27:30: "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." Also He says that "the earth is the Lord's."

- a. Now what are we to tithe?
- b. Where are we to pay our tithe?
- c. Who has the right to spend the tithe?

Let us go back to the first question. Lev. 27:32-34, "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. He shall not search whether it be good or bad, neither shall he change it: and if he change it at all, then both it and the change thereof shall he holy; it shall not be redeemed. These are the commandments, which the Lord commanded Moses for the children of Israel in mount Sinai."

They were to tithe everything -- all seed, all fruit of the trees, the herds and flocks, and whatever passed under the rod. In Africa they have what is called kraals. There is a circular enclosure and the posts of the fence are set right against each other. There is a little gate where the men and boys go through, and a larger gate where the sheep and cattle go through one at a time. Now get the picture: The time comes to tithe; here is the owner of the herd, and the dogs and the men with the cattle and sheep come along. Here stands the owner of this herd of perhaps 200. He takes a stick and ties on the end of it a piece of wool which he dips in a pot of crimson. Then he stands at the gate, and as the sheep come he counts 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 and the 10th one he marks with the crimson. (Can't you see them as they go through?) He marks that old fellow on the back with the crimson wool and then he goes on counting again until he reaches the tenth one and he dips the stick and the wool in the crimson again and marks it, and he repeats this until the last one of the herd has gone under the rod. Hallelujah, for the Blood!

Now suppose that after they are all marked and are in the enclosure he looks over that fine flock and every tenth one has the blot of crimson on. And as he walks around among them he sees a fine ewe marked, and he says, "My, that is a fine ewe, the best of the flock! I am sorry I marked that one! I can't stand that." And he rubs and rubs and cleans the color out the best he can, but it has

penetrated to the hide and is hard to get off. Listen what God says about a man who does that way. You are going to get in trouble when you don't do what God tells you. Lev. 27:33, "He shall not search whether it be good or bad, neither shall he change it: and if he change it at all, then both it and the change thereof shall be holy; it shall not be redeemed." God have mercy on us for the stuff we try to put off on the Lord!

I must tell you a story right here. We have an Orphanage at Kingswood, a wonderful home, and we often get a box of clothes. That is quite a time, for everybody wants to see what is in the box. One of our workers who sees the funny side of everything was helping unpack a box one time. He pulled out a big pair of trousers that would fit, perhaps, a man weighing 250 pounds or more. He was glad to see them. He shook them out and to his amazement the entire seat was gone, and both knees were worn clear through. This fellow with his Irish disposition held them up and looked through the seat and said, "The Lord bless that brother! He is surely a tither; he has worn out nine-tenths of these trousers and sent the tithe to the Lord." I am telling you, beloved, that when God reveals to you what He wants you to do, you had better do it. You will always get in trouble if you try to put something over on the Lord that is inferior to what He told you to do. You will not only have to do it sooner or later, but you will lose what you tried to get off on Him.

A gentleman was sitting in a missionary service and the missionary was pleading for an offering. The Spirit whispered, "\$100," and he drew back and would not give it. He had in his barnyard a very fine horse for which he had been offered \$300 that week. During that morning service this horse was playing in the yard as horses will do when they are feeling good and in prancing around in the yard he stepped on the end of a piece of 2x4. The other end flew up and the horse came down on it and was disemboweled and was dead when the man got home that Sunday morning. The man was heartbroken and said, "My God, I will give the \$100 now." But it meant \$400 instead of \$100 to him. You might say, "I believe the horse would have died anyhow." I don't. God's Word says so. If you try to change the Lord's offering you will not only lose the one you were trying to change but you will lose the whole business; you can't get away with it. We have so many poor folks who will not mind God. Our Heavenly Father is going fifty-fifty with you. If the tenth one is a bad one, God says, "That is all right; it is mine." But mind if the tenth one happens to be the best one we should say, "All right, Father, that is Thine." God goes fifty-fifty with you in giving. Glory to His name!

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## 08 -- WHERE ARE WE TO PAY OUR TITHE?

Now the second question. Where are we to pay our tithe? Some one says to me, "But, Brother Slater, where are we to pay our tithe?" Another says, "You pay it where it is needed." No, no; that is not God's idea at all. I will give you the Scripture for it, and I shall stay within the Book. Where are we to pay our tithe? The Bible says "Into the storehouse." But that doesn't satisfy you. You say, "Where is the storehouse?" Let me ask you some questions.

Where do you pay your meat bill? Where do you pay for your groceries? Where do you pay for your gasoline? Well, somebody might say, "I pay my meat bill, if I happen to be down town, at the depot. The ticket agent takes money, so I just pay my meat bill there. Or if I happen to be at a

gas station that fellow takes money, so I just pay my grocery bill to him. He takes money and it doesn't make much difference anyhow. I just pay my gasoline bill at the grocery or where I buy my coal." Would that sound reasonable? No, you don't do those things; if you did I would not be preaching to you here this morning. Now just where do you pay for those things? If you are honest you pay for your groceries where you purchased them, and you pay your meat bill at the butcher's where you got the meat. Do you get me? You should pay your tithe into the storehouse, the place where you get your spiritual food.

At my house we have quite a large family and they are all hearty eaters. As a rule we don't buy breakfast food by the box, we buy it by the case. We have a large shelf in the end of the kitchen, about eighteen inches deep and it goes to the ceiling, and we buy shredded wheat, puffed rice and puffed wheat and those different foods -- we are all fond of them -- and that shelf looks like a grocery store. Then we buy our sugar by the 100 pound bags, for it is cheaper that way and we don't have to run to the store so often. But we don't have a sugar bowl on the table that holds 100 pounds. We have a large biscuit tin and we dump that sugar into it and when breakfast time comes we go to the storehouse and get a box of shredded wheat or something else as the case may be, whatever the children want, and we take the sugar bowl and fill it up from the storehouse. Now everybody knows that the storehouse is where we get our food.

Now, preachers, I am going to help you out. There are a lot of tramps in our country -- the country is full of religious tramps. They belong to the big meeting house and pay their annual dues because they have to; they make them do it down in the meeting house where their names are registered, but they will come to the Holiness churches and camp meetings and will have the nerve to stand up and say, "If I get any food at all I have to come to a Holiness meeting to get it." Shame on you! Why don't you pay your board bill where you get your food? Your storehouse is where you get your food.

When I was pastor at a certain place we had about a dozen nice people. We loved them and they came very regularly and contributed a little, sometimes fifty cents and occasionally \$1.00. But they belonged somewhere else. They would shout and have a time but would say, "I belong up here to such and such a church but when I want a feast I come to this Holiness Church." It went on for about a year, and I could not put any of them in as Sunday School superintendent or as teachers; I could not depend on them. They did not belong to our church; they belonged up at the big Church. They enjoyed the Holiness crowd but paid their money into the dead meeting house. I could not depend on them, and their preacher could not depend on them. I told them, "You are religious tramps, and you ought to anchor where you believe God wants you." Pay your tithes where you get your food. How is that? Is that not fair and scriptural?

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## 09 -- WHO HAS THE RIGHT TO SPEND THE TITHE?

Now, my third question. Who has the right to spend the tithe? If you will turn to 2 Chronicles 31, we will read from the 4th verse through the 12th verse, and in these verses we learn that they brought the tithe of the fruit and of the oxen and the sheep, and everything was piled in heaps. In the 10th verse we learn, "Since the people began to bring the offerings into the house

of the Lord, we have had enough to eat, and have left plenty: for the Lord hath blessed his people; and that which is left is this great store." Glory to God! They heard and obeyed the commandment of the Lord and all their preachers could come to the Annual Council and report, "We have had plenty to eat and our rent is all paid, and our car is paid for." Hallelujah! "I have a little in the bank," for that is what they said. Not many of us can say that, but we could if the people would bring in their tithe. God have mercy on us! It is a wonderful thing to be in line with God's great plan.

In Neh. 13:10-13 we read: "And I perceived that the portions of the Levites had not been given them: for the Levites and the singers, that did the work, were fled every one to his field.

"Then contended I with the rulers, and said, Why is the house of God forsaken? And I gathered them together, and set them in their place.

"Then brought all Judah the tithe of the corn and the new wine and the oil into the treasuries.

"And I made treasurers over the treasuries, Shelemiah the priest, and Zadok the scribe, and of the Levites, Pedaiah: and next to them was Hanan the son of Zaccur, the son of Mattaniah: for they were counted faithful, and their office was to distribute unto their brethren."

We notice that they started to run chicken farms and gasoline stations and went back to their old jobs because the folks did not pay their tithes; because the church would not tithe, the preachers and singers had to go back to their old jobs, and the country is full of preachers today who did go back to their fields. Our Scripture says, "They ran or hurried;" that is what the word "fled" means. Then in the next verse, "Then contended I with the rulers, and said, Why is the house of God forsaken? And I gathered them together, and set them in their place. Then brought all Judah the tithe of the corn and the new wine and the oil into the treasuries. And I made treasurers over the treasuries, etc." Glory to God! The Lord said, "Come back from the field, from the chicken farm, from working on the railroad. The tithes are in."

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## 10 -- FOR WHOM IS THE TITHE?

Now for whom is the tithe? First, it is for the priest always; the tithe is for the Levites and priests. Num. 18:21-24, "And, behold, I have given the children of Levi all the tenth in Israel for an inheritance, for their service which they serve, even the service of the tabernacle of the congregation. Neither must the children of Israel henceforth come nigh the tabernacle of the congregation, lest they bear sin, and die. But the Levites shall do the service of the tabernacle if the congregation, and they shall bear their iniquity: it shall be a statute for ever throughout your generations, that among the children of Israel they have no inheritance. But the tithes of the children of Israel, which they offer as an heave offering unto the Lord, I have given to the Levites to inherit: therefore I have said unto them, Among the children of Israel they shall have no inheritance." If a preacher is called of God to preach the Gospel he should preach the Gospel and not work at other

things to make a living; for no preacher can be at his best while he is trying to make a living by manual labor.

In the days of the Apostles they said, "Seek out seven men filled with the Holy Ghost to attend to the business." Many a preacher has been ruined by being taken out of the active ministry and put at some kind of business. That is the business of the clerk or deacon and the preacher is to give himself to prayer and the ministry of the Word. Many a church is going to give an account for a backslidden preacher because it did not support him and he had to go to work to make a living. God called him to preach and not to go to work. I tell you if we can get God's idea on this, the preacher will go on preaching and there will be no trouble about the finances; what is needed will come in to carry on the work of the house of the Lord and His cause.

Deut. 14:22-25, "Thou shalt truly tithe all the increase of thy seed, that the field bringeth forth year by year.

"And thou shalt eat before the Lord thy God, in the place which he shall choose to place his name there, the tithe of thy corn, of thy wine, and of thine oil and the firstlings of thy herds, and of thy flocks; that thou mayest learn to fear the Lord thy God always.

"And if the way be too long for thee, so that thou art not able to carry it; or if the place be too far from thee, which the Lord thy God shall choose to set his name there, when the Lord thy God hath blessed thee:

"Then shalt thou turn it into money and bind up the money in thine hand, and shalt go unto the place which the Lord thy God shall choose."

The Bible accounts of the tithings of the Lord's chosen people (the Israelites) are somewhat obscure to the casual reader, and appear to contain conflicts. But we must remember that the Divine Book has no conflicts, and must have the illumination of the Spirit to be properly understood.

But the greatest Bible students are agreed that they did not stop with one tithing, but always double tithed, and sometimes a third and perhaps as much as a fifth tithe was made.

All are agreed that the first tithe was sacred to the Lord's work, going always to the priest and the Levite. And it seems that in Deut. 14:22-25, there is provision for the second tithe which was to be used exclusively for the benefit of the tither and his family, and in which he was again to share with the Levite, his spiritual minister.

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## 11 -- ALL INCREASE TO BE TITHED

In verse 22, we find we shall tithe all the increase of the seed and in the succeeding verses we have a description of what we shall do with this tithe. Here we have an idea of the 1st and 2nd tithe. I would like to say here that God has fixed it so that you have no right to touch that 1st tithe; it

is wholly the Lord's, and you can't use it for any other purpose, such as using it to go to camp meeting, but you can do this with that second tithe. You shall tithe the whole of the grain as it comes from the field. But if it is too large to carry, according to verses 24 and 25, you can turn it into money. "And thou shalt bestow that money for whatsoever thy soul lusteth after, for oxen, or for sheep, or for wine, or for strong drink, or for whatsoever thy soul desireth: and thou shalt eat there before the Lord thy God, and thou shalt rejoice, thou, and thine household. And the Levite that is within thy gates; thou shalt not forsake him; for he hath no part nor inheritance with thee." In Deut. 14:28, 29 we find another tithe, a third one to be taken every three years, and to be used for the widow, the orphan and the stranger; but the Levite was also to share in this third tithe. It seems as though we are to be taught to never neglect the minister. "At the end of three years thou shalt bring forth all the tithe of thine increase the same year, and shalt lay it up within thy gates:

"And the Levite (because he hath no part nor inheritance with thee), and the stranger, and the fatherless, and the widow, which are within thy gates, shall come, and shall eat and be satisfied; that the Lord thy God may bless thee in all the work of thine hand which thou doest."

I never knew before I read this what to do with that second tithe. You can take that second tithe and with it pay your camp meeting expenses and have the time of your life in doing so. Hallelujah! I am so glad I got hold of that. Some have been coming to camp meeting and taking their first tithe and paying their expenses and I am telling you that that is wrong. Other folks have taken that tithe and sent their children to college or Bible school, and that is wrong. You have no right to touch that first tithe for anything that concerns yourself; that tithe is the Lord's.

Now the third tithe would take care of the stranger, the widow and the orphan. But you should never call him a stranger, for you don't know what it may mean if you treat him like you ought to treat him. I know a dear old sister, who never turned a stranger or a tramp away from her door. She would invite him in and give him a basin of water and a cake of soap and a nice clean towel, and while he was washing and cleaning up, she would cook him a nice good meal, perhaps of fried eggs and ham and a pot of coffee. Then she would set the stranger down to the table. (She said you never knew when you were entertaining an angel.) And while he ate his meal she would stand and preach to him, and 'when he was through eating, she would get down and pray that God would save him. This is what she told me: "I have preachers now all over the country that came to my door as tramps and I fed them and clothed them and treated them as though they were somebody, and God has let me see many of them saved. I was never afraid but once. One time a wicked looking man came and I began to tremble. However, I invited him in and said to him, 'Here's some water; you can wash,' but he would not do it. I offered him his food, but he would not sit down; he stood and ate it. I tried to pray, but he would not let me. Finally he left the house and went away. I was scared in my inner being. A year after that I got a letter which said, 'I am the man that came to your door and refused to wash or sit down to eat; but I have found the Lord and I want to ask you to forgive me. I came to your house with the purpose of doing you violence, but some strange power would not let me touch you. Glory be to God.' Never turn a tramp from the door. You have all kinds of souls to preach to, the stranger who does not know God. The minute God saved me He gave me a love for the stranger. We lived within a block of the railroad, and they had our fence marked. They used to come very often, and mother would want to turn them away and many times I said, "Mamma, 'be not forgetful to entertain strangers for some have entertained angels unawares.'"

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## 12 -- GOD BLESSES TITHING AND TITHERS

The subject of tithing is a great study. I don't profess to know it all, but I know enough to get blessed over it. Brother, sister, in the name of the Lord, I want you to know that God will help us. You might say, "Well, Mr. Slater, I don't understand." If a farmer has to buy fertilizer and implements, what is he going to do about the tithe? Now, beloved, I have been blessed tithing my gross income; for instance, if I am called to conduct a revival and it costs me \$25 to get ready and get to that meeting, and the brethren give me \$100 for my services, I never tithe the \$75 but always tithe the \$100 and am blessed in doing it. Now that is a question you must settle for yourself. It is hard to tell the storekeeper just how to tithe, but he keeps books and it ought not to be such a problem. You will have to settle that between you and God as to what you are to do, and if you can look God in the face and tell Him you have tithed your increase you have a right to believe God and He will do what He said He would do.

The promised blessing God has promised to pour out His blessing on any man or any woman who will line up with him and take His plan to carry on His work. Here we have what God says, "I will open the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that you will not be able to receive it." I was preaching along this line one time, in a large church, and I discovered that there were about twenty-four windows and two doors in it. It dawned on me that if Heaven is anything like that, for instance, or like the Vanderbilt mansion with 375 windows in it -- oh, if Heaven is like that, and God has promised if we tithe He 'will not stop at the doors but He will throw open the windows of Heaven and fill us up, what would it mean! When I think of this, I think of those tropical lands where the windows open clear up, not just half way as they do here. Now God is determined to fill you with His Spirit if you will obey Him and tithe; He will open the windows of Heaven and fill you up. If you tithe faithfully then, thank God, you can expect Him to fill you full. He has promised to do so. Some one has said, "I believe in tithing but I want to pay my debts first. I believe a man ought to pay his debts first. I owe Mr. Jones for so and so, and my house is not paid for." But listen, friend, to whom were you in debt first? How about that debt you owe to God and have owed Him for a long time?

There was a brother who was a Quaker, a dear friend of mine. He did not get light on tithing until he was a man. When he did get the light on it the Lord showed him that He wanted him to pay all his tithe -- not only at the present time, but clear back. He immediately began to obey and paid \$100, and \$75, and \$50 and so on, trying to catch up, and one time the Lord spoke to him and said, "Now your tithe is all paid up." Beloved, if you are going to be particular about paying your debts first, you better pay what you owe the Lord. I want to tell you the tithe is the Lord's anyway and to be honorable you must pay it the same as you would your rent or your grocery bill. I am just thinking of the house you live in; your soul is inside, and maybe if you had served God as you ought to you would not be in such a sickly body as you are. God gave you all you have of health and wealth and He asks for ten per cent as rent. Now, how do you like your house? Are your taxes all paid? How about it? Have you paid your rent? How long have you been living in it? Thirty years perhaps. Have you paid your rent for those years? There is nothing more reasonable on the

earth than that. This is not my doctrine, this is in the Bible. Accept it because it is in the Word of God.

A railroad engineer of Steubenville, Ohio, got the light on tithing and began to tithe his income. He was working on the road as an extra man and the Lord blessed him so with work that other men accused the yard man of favoring him. He gives God the glory and says it is because he is faithfully tithing. A farmer and his wife were Christians and the little woman got light on tithing. They had been married some time and she wanted to do the right thing; she said, "I believe we ought to tithe." He said, "I don't for we are in debt and we ought to pay this first. When we get this debt paid you may tithe." She kept still a while although she felt they ought to tithe. The next year she repeated her entreaty to her husband about tithing and said, "We ought to tithe for it is right." She knew they were worse in debt than ever, but he protested that they must pay their debts first. She had to give in again. The next year they were deeper in debt than ever before and she said, "Husband, I am convinced we ought to tithe." He told her that the honorable thing to do was to pay their debts first and then he would have no objection to her tithing after that. The next year they were deeper in the mire of debt than ever and she said, "Now, husband, I feel that we are robbing God and it is grieving Him, we ought to tithe." He was exasperated and said, "I don't care what you do, we are going to lose everything anyhow." That little woman tithed the gross income and the very next year God blessed them so they were entirely out of debt. Hallelujah, if we tithe we have a right to expect God to do what He says He will do. God has promised.

Four years ago a baby was born in the home of a close personal friend of mine. The doctor said that a clot of blood had gone to the mother's heart, and you know that that always means death. The doctor, a sanctified man, stood over her, working, and the perspiration stood on his brow. The husband did not say a word aloud but took her by the hand. It seemed all signs of life had fled, and it was thought that she had slipped out into the other world. But while the doctor worked, my friend held her hand and looked silently to the Lord and said, "O Lord, our tithes are all in! You have promised to rebuke the devourer. I don't know what to promise you only that I will travel farther and stay away longer and preach the everlasting Gospel to a dying world." The wife revived and was soon well, and the doctor told his wife afterwards that it was positively a miracle. We knew that it was answer to prayer. Their tithe was all in.

God not only looks after our bodies but He looks after the animal kingdom as well. This same brother has a wonderful cow, and when she had a calf she took some kind of fever which caused the udder to harden. It was two o'clock in the morning and that good old cow dropped down and her eyes were glassy; it looked as if she would die. My friend prayed and worked with her. He prayed that she might live until the prayer meeting at six in the morning. A request came to the prayer meeting in the morning. I looked up and got hold of God. I said, "Now, Lord, the brother's tithe is all in. The cow is dying and you have promised to rebuke the devourer." I prayed a moment and God answered that prayer, and that old cow is living today.

A brother testifies that on the night before a camp meeting began his wife was sick unto death; her life was despaired of. But this good brother bowed before the Lord and, lifting up clean hands, told God that his tithes were all in, and asked Him to touch his wife. The Lord touched her and gave her strength to get to the meeting, and on the following Sunday morning healed her. Then on Saturday night the Lord saved their boy. It surely pays to tithe.

Is your tithe all in? I know a dear friend in the Southland. She came back from India after seven years in the mission field. She never backslid but kept the victory and she was a faithful tither. She tithed her chickens and all she possessed. They went to church one day and when they came back from meeting they discovered that a truck had backed up to their chicken house and every single chicken had been taken. They saw where the truck had driven out. Every one of her chickens was gone. She did not grieve, but said, "My tithe is all in. Glory to God!" She trusted God and the very next morning every single chicken was back in the chicken house. The thief had come back during the night. You have a right to believe God when you pay your tithe. I could go on and on with one illustration after another but there is not time. You have heard of the man in Pennsylvania who had the plague of potato bugs. There was a terrible scourge of potato bugs all through that section of the country. They could not get rid of them, do what they would. The bugs were destroying the vines and ruining things generally. Now this farmer in particular was a Christian and a faithful tither. He had a ten-acre patch of potatoes. He cried to God saying, "O God, Thou knowest I am a tither, and Thou knowest I will tithe every potato in this patch; I will give Thee the best of them too, Lord. Thou hast promised to rebuke the devourer. Drive these bugs off of this patch. I believe Thou wilt do it." He rose from his knees out there in that field and those bugs began to get out of there; those that could not fly away ran away or crawled away as fast as they could. The farmer's neighbors said, "You are a pretty Christian to pray all those bugs on our potatoes." He said, "I did not pray them on your potatoes but I prayed them out of mine." I tell you, beloved, you have a right to believe God if you are a tither. The Bible tells us that God will rebuke the devourer, and the devil shall not destroy the fruit of your ground. Glory to God! God has promised to hold the enemy in check, if you will mind Him.

In the Book of Malachi, God tells us that He will do more than open the windows of Heaven, and pour out a blessing which we will not be able to contain; He promises to rebuke the devourer for our sakes, and he (Satan), shall not destroy the fruit of our ground.

When we were in Africa we were supposed to get \$50 a month, and it did not reach for we had a large family to feed. So we plowed up the ground and did our best to raise a little corn. We had one of those years of famine; no corn would grow, and it looked as if it would be worse the next spring. But we prayed and said, "Lord, we have to have corn! We are tithers and we are going to plow the land. You know we are believing your promises." We dropped the corn, and we plowed and prayed up and down every corn row and God heard our prayer. He knew we were tithers and He also knew that we would tithe every ear of corn. The Lord is my witness and if I had them here from Africa there are enough of those natives who could also testify to what I am about to say: The natives' corn came up just a little ways and withered and died. It did not amount to anything, and our corn grew up so high that it was away above our head and bore a great crop. This was missionary corn, and we tithed every bit of it. It was the talk of every one how God had blessed the missionary corn. Folks came and looked through the field and said, "How can you account for such a crop?" It is easy to account for. Glory be to God! You can't outdo the Lord when it comes to giving. He has promised to rebuke the devourer, and the potato bugs and such like if you will mind Him and shout the victory and live clean. Glory be to God!

After delivering this message in the city of Columbus, Ohio, seventy-two people agreed to become tithers. Four months later I met a woman who was a widow. She said, "Brother Slater,

when you preached that message in Columbus, I did not put up my hand, but I did tell God that from then on I would tithe all my income and see if He would do what you said He would." Then she broke down and wept and shouted, saying, "Never in my life have I been so well cared for or had as much money as since that day." God will always keep His word.

Ecclesiastes 11:1, "Cast thy bread upon the waters: for thou shalt find it after many days." Then again in Prov. 3:9, 10: "Honor the Lord with thy substance, and with the firstfruits of all thine increase: so shall thy barns be filled with plenty, and thy presses shall burst out with new wine."

The tithe was sanctioned by Jesus Christ. Matt. 23 :23, "Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye pay tithe of mint and anise and cummin, and have omitted the weightier matters of the law, judgment, mercy, and faith: these ought ye to have done and not to leave the other undone." God help us to keep straight! Then in Luke 20:24, 25, "Shew me a penny. Whose image and superscription hath it? They answered and said, Caesar's. And he said unto them, Render therefore unto Caesar the things which are Caesar's, and unto God the things which are God's." Then Paul, in I Cor. 9:7-14, tells us that they who preach the Gospel are to live of the Gospel. Why does God hold us to the tithe? In order that all nations might have the gospel. That is the missionary side of this topic. If everybody in the Church of Christ would tithe, there would be enough to pay the expenses and everybody would have the time of his life, and everybody who is not a tither would miss the blessing. God has promised to bless the man who tithes. If we are to be real Christians we must be cheerful and faithful tithers.

Those who feel that systematic tithing properly distributed would not be adequate should find food for thought in the fact that the Mormons are tithers and always have money. The Adventists are also strong on tithing and they always have money for their churches and institutions, and plenty for missions. And lastly, it is a recognized fact that the Jews who continue to tithe to this present day do not lack for money for their religious work. It is also true that the majority of the wealth in the world of today is in the hands of the Jews.

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THE END