

dust of the earth and made man. He made everything and furnished the material. He owns everything. Some men think they own it, or at least part of it. Some say they are going to rule it. But the owner and ruler is God: and He is very much alive today. How comforting is this thought in a day when the world is threatened with atomic destruction. The psalmist said: “[God] laid the foundation of the earth, that it should not be removed for ever” (Ps. 104:5).

2. He upholds and sustains all things.

Heb. 1:3.

Who being the brightness of His glory, and the express image of His person, and _____ all things by the word of His _____, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high.”

“Upholding all things by the word of His power.” Men call it gravitation. What is gravitation? Oh, it is the power that makes the earth go round the sun! Well, what is this power that makes the earth go round the sun? Oh, that’s gravitation! And so we think in circles. What is that power but the will and power of God?

3. He purchased all after it was lost.

1 Cor. 6:19, 20. “Ye are _____ your own . . . ye are _____ with a _____.”

Dear friend, God made you, and He bought you with the blood of Jesus Christ. Shall any man withhold himself or ought else from this gracious God and Saviour?

Every blessing comes marked with the cross of Calvary.

4. He gives power to get wealth.

Deut. 8:18. “But thou shalt _____ the Lord thy God: for it is He that _____ thee _____ to get wealth.”

He gives us all talents to earn a living for ourselves and the family. We may use these talents, misuse them, or half use them.

C. How is man related to these possessions of God?

Luke 12:42. “And the Lord said, Who then is that *faithful and wise* _____, whom his lord shall make _____ over his household, to _____ them their portion of meat in due season?”

Man is the steward of God’s goods. And “a

steward is a person entrusted with the management of estates or affairs not his own. He administers what belongs to another.” **Matt. 25:14.** “For the kingdom of heaven is as a man traveling into a far country, who called his own servants, and delivered unto _____ his _____.”

D. What is required of stewards?

1. Faithfulness. 1 Cor. 4:2. “Moreover it is _____ in _____, that a man be found _____.”

Faithfulness—that is a grand word. “He that is faithful in that which is least is faithful also in much” (Luke 16:10). Unfaithfulness works the same way. To the faithful steward the Owner of all will say, “Well done, thou good and faithful servant” (Matthew 25:21).

2. Accountability. Matt. 25:19. “After a long time the _____ of those servants cometh, and _____ with them.” Read also Luke 16:1, 2.

Surely every man who has not crushed out the thought knows that he must render an account to God for life, health, wealth, time, and all things.

E. What is a Christian steward’s first responsibility?

Ps. 116:12. “What shall I render unto the _____ for all His _____ toward me?” **Prov. 3:9.** “Honour the _____ with thy _____, and with the firstfruits of all thine increase.” **Matt. 6:33.** “But seek ye _____ the kingdom of _____, and His righteousness; and all these _____ shall be added unto you.”

The great duty of a steward is to make the best possible use of that which is entrusted to him, not for himself, but for the owner. The sinful steward will make himself first. *The Christian steward will make God first.*

F. How do God’s stewards fill His earthly storehouse?

1. What is it we are to bring to the storehouse? Mal. 3:10. “Bring ye all the _____ into the storehouse, that there may be meat in _____, and prove Me now herewith, saith the Lord of hosts, if I will not open you the _____ of heaven, and pour you out a _____, that there shall not be room enough to receive it.”

What is tithe? The tithe means one tenth. If a man earns \$1, his tithe is 10 cents. If he earns \$100, it is \$10. If he earns \$1,000, his tithe is \$100. And this is when it may get hard. The more God blesses, the harder it seems for some men to return tithe.

The tithe is not man’s plan, but the plan of God’s own devising. *It reveals man’s faithfulness and his recognition of God’s ownership of the entire ten tenths.*

2. What else should we bring to the Lord?

Ps. 96:8. “Give unto the Lord the glory due unto His name: bring an _____, and come into His courts.”

The tithe God requires. What man gives above that is his offering, or gift. The offering of two men drawing the same amount of salary might vary depending upon their generosity or their ability to give.

G. How fully was this plan to be carried out?

Lev. 27:30, 32. “And all the tithe of the _____, whether of the _____ of the land, or of the _____ of the tree, is the Lord’s: it is _____ unto the Lord And concerning the tithe of the _____, or of the _____, even of whatsoever passeth under the rod, the _____ shall be holy unto the Lord.” Jacob promised to pay tithe to God on the very necessities of life.

Gen. 28:20-22. “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 _____

_____ I will surely give the tenth unto thee.” In the new Testament Jesus approved tithe even on a very small income. **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, _____, _____, and _____: *these ye ought to have done*, and not to leave the others undone.”

H. For what purpose was the tithe used?

Gen. 14:18-20. _____

The first mention of tithe in the Bible is in the days

of Abraham, who paid tithe to Melchizedek. Up until that time the family was the unit of organization in God’s work, and there was no centralized worship. Just as soon as a priest appeared outside the family unit, then the tithe appeared. It is simply God’s plan of supporting His organization.

Israel paid tithe to the Levites.

Num. 18:21. “And, behold, I have given the children of Levi all the _____ in Israel for an inheritance, for their service which they serve, even the service of the _____ of the congregation.”

In the time of Moses and thereafter, the tithe supported the Levites, who looked after the temple services.

And Paul advises that the same plan be followed for the support of the gospel ministry.

“Do you not know that they which minister about holy things live of the things of the temple? and they which wait at the altar are partakers with the altar? Even so hath the Lord _____ that they which _____ the _____ should live of the gospel” (1 Cor. 9:13,14).

If the Jews paid tithe and offerings at God’s request to keep up one Temple service, how shall Christians, with the whole world to reach with the gospel, do less?

I. What curse is pronounced on unfaithfulness?

Mal. 3:8, 9. “Will a man rob God? Yet ye have _____ Me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee? In _____ and _____. *Ye are cursed with a curse: for ye have _____ Me, even this whole nation.*”

A modern Christian statesman said that “the money that belongs by every right to God, but is kept back from Him by His people, is probably the greatest hindrance to vital spirituality that there is in the world today.”

J. What blessing is pronounced on faithful tithe payers?

Mal. 3:10, 11. _____

A. A. Hyde, the Mentholatum manufacturer, was at one time bankrupt and owed \$100,000. Nevertheless, he pledge to pay tithe. Shortly afterward, a friend said, “Here is a good ointment. Manufacture it.” He did, and you know the rest. He became a wealthy man.