

**TIMELY COUNSELS**  
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“Behold I come quickly; hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown.” Rev. 3:11.  
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**Summary Outline**

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FAITHFUL STEWARDSHIP\*

- **We belong to God  
(The Bottom Line)**

Christ has purchased us by the price of His own blood.

He has paid the purchase money for our redemption, and if we will lay hold upon the treasure, it is ours by the free gift of God.

- God owns everything

“How much owest thou unto my Lord?” Luke 16:5. It is impossible to tell. All that we have is from God. He lays his hand upon our possessions saying: “I am the rightful owner of the whole universe; these are My goods. Consecrate them to Me the tithes and offerings. As you bring these specified goods as a token of your loyalty and your submission to My sovereignty, My blessing shall increase your substance, and you will have abundance.”

- God asks for tithe and offerings

- Our response indicates our loyalty and submission

- God is testing each person

God is testing every soul that claims to believe in Him. All are entrusted with talents. The Lord has given men His goods upon which to trade. He has made them His stewards, and has placed in their possession money, houses, and lands. All these are to be regarded as the Lord’s goods and used to advance His work, to build up His kingdom in the world. In trading with the

- We are stewards

- His property is to be used to advance His work

- We should remember whose money we are dealing with

for wisdom, that we may not use His sacred trust to glorify ourselves or to indulge selfish impulses. The amount entrusted varies, but those who have the smallest gifts must not feel that because their talent of means is small, they can do nothing with it.

- Our assets vary but we are all responsible

Every Christian is a steward of God, entrusted with His goods. Remember the words: “Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful.” 1 Corinthians 4:2. Let us be sure that we are not robbing God in any jots or tittles, for much is involved in this question.

- Much is involved
- We may ignore

All things belong to God. Men may ignore His claims. While He bountifully bestows His blessings upon them, they may use His gifts for their own selfish gratification; but they will be called to give an account for their stewardship.

- But we will be called to account

A steward identifies himself with his master. He accepts the responsibilities of a steward, and he must act in his master’s stead, doing as his master would do were he presiding. His master’s interests become his. The position of a steward is one of dignity because his master trusts him. If in any wise he acts selfishly and turns the advantages gained by trading with his Lord’s goods to his own advantage, he has perverted the trust reposed in him.

- God trusts us
- Don’t pervert the trust

Lord’s goods, we are to seek Him

depends on tithe

- Gospel proclamation

- Work of the minister

Ministers should:

- Set before the people their duty
- Teach the people that a portion of their income is sacred
- Teach by word and action
- God's part is **not** ours

- Don't be tempted to use tithe for emergencies

voluntary gifts of all His people. The one who proclaims the message of mercy to fallen men has another work also-to set before the people the duty of sustaining the work of God with their means. He must teach them that a portion of their income belongs to God and is to be sacredly bestowed to His work. This lesson he should present by both precept and example; he should beware that he does not by his own course lessen the force of his teaching.

That which has been set apart according to the Scriptures as belonging to the Lord constitutes the revenue of the gospel and is no longer ours. It is no better than sacrilege for a man to take from God's treasury in order to serve himself or to serve others in their secular business. Some have been at fault in diverting from the altar of God that which has been especially dedicated to Him. All should regard this matter in the right light. Let no one, when brought into a strait place, take money consecrated to religious purposes and use it for his advantage, soothing his conscience by saying that he will repay it at some future time. Far better to cut down the expenses to correspond with the income, to restrict the wants, and live within the means than to use the Lord's money for secular purposes.

### THE SUPPORT OF THE GOSPEL

The Lord has made the proclamation of the gospel dependent upon the labors and the

- God gives special direction

- Our duty is clear
- God's part not to be diverted
- Diverting tithe can be either for personal use or for what one "considers" the Lord's work - it should **not** be done
- Tithe is sacred
- Ministers should not use their influence to divert tithe
- Tithe should be placed in God's treasury
- God desires exact conformity
- Don't try to "improve" on God's plan

God has given special direction as to the use of the tithe. He does not design that His work shall be crippled for want of means. That there may be no haphazard work and no error, He has made our duty on these points, very plain. The portion that God has reserved for Himself is not to be diverted to any other purpose than that which He has specified. Let none feel at liberty to retain their tithe, to use according to their own judgment. They are not to use it for themselves in an emergency, not to apply it as they see fit, even in what they may regard as the Lord's work.

The minister, should, by precept and example, teach the people to regard the tithe as sacred. He should not feel that he can retain and apply it according to his own judgment because he is a minister. It is not his. He is not at liberty to devote to himself whatever he thinks is his due. He should not give his influence to any plans for diverting from their legitimate use the tithes and offerings dedicated to God. They are to be placed in His treasury and held sacred for His service as He has appointed.

God desires all His stewards to be exact in following divine arrangements. They are not to offset the Lord's plans by performing some deed of charity or giving some gift or some offering when or how they, the human agents, shall see fit. It is a very poor policy for men to seek to improve on God's plan, and invent a

## THE USE OF THE TITHE

against God's requirements. God calls upon all to give their influence to His own arrangement. He has made His plan known, and all who would co-operate with Him must carry out this plan instead of daring to attempt an improvement on it.

The Lord instructed Moses, for Israel: "Thou shalt command the children of Israel, that they bring thee pure oil olive beaten for the light, to cause the lamp to burn always." Exodus 27:20. This was to be a continual offering, that the house of God might be properly supplied with that which was necessary for His service. His people today are to remember that the house of worship is the Lord's property and that it is to be scrupulously cared for. But the funds for this work are not to come from the tithe.

- Church buildings should be cared for but not from tithe funds
- The tithe message is plain and definite
- It is a mistake to apply the tithe to anything else
- Not church school, colporteurs or other good work

A very plain, definite message has been given to me for our people. I am bidden to tell them that they are making a mistake in applying the tithe to various objects which, though food in themselves, are not the object to which the Lord has said that the tithe should be applied. Those who make this use of the tithe are departing from the Lord's arrangement. God will judge for these things.

One reasons that the tithe may be applied to school purposes. Still others reason that canvassers and colporteurs should be supported from the tithe. But a great mistake is made when the tithe is drawn from the object for which it is to be used - the support of the

makeshift, averaging up their good impulses on this and that occasion, and offsetting them

ministers. There should be today in the field one hundred well qualified laborers where now there is but one.

#### A SOLEMN OBLIGATION

The tithe is sacred, reserved by God for Himself. It is to be brought into His treasury to be used to sustain the gospel laborers in their work. For a long time the Lord has been robbed because there are those who do not realize that the tithe is God's reserved portion.

Some have been dissatisfied and have said: "I will not longer pay my tithe; for I have no confidence in the way things are managed at the heart of the work."

But will you rob God because you think the management of the work is not right? **Make your complaint, plainly and openly, in the right spirit, to the proper ones. Send in your petitions for things to be adjusted and set in order; but do not withdraw from the work of God, and prove unfaithful, because others are not doing right.**

Read carefully the third chapter of Malachi and see what God says about the tithe. If our churches will take their stand upon the Lord's word and be faithful in paying their tithe into His treasury, more laborers will be encouraged to take up ministerial work. More men would give themselves to the ministry were they not told of the depleted treasury, and there would be if selfish hearts and hands had not withheld the tithes or made use of them to support other lines of work.

- The object is the support of ministers
- Some are dissatisfied
- Some stop paying tithe because they lack confidence in conference leaders
- What should one do when he perceives there are problems?

Make a complaint:

- plainly
- openly
- to the proper one in the right spirit
- But do not stop tithing!
- Don't deplete the treasury
- Men are discouraged from studying for the ministry
- There should be an abundant supply
- It is selfish to withhold or divert other projects

- Those who meddle with the

tithe will lose heavenly treasure unless they repent

- There is only **one** place tithe should go
- Other projects should be supported but **not** from the tithe
- God still wants tithe to be used to support “the ministry”

Pastors’ responsibility:

- Is strangely neglected
- Should instruct regarding obligations and duties to God especially regarding tithe paying
- There must be resources to sustain the workers
- If pastors don’t educate the people there will be a shortage

God’s reserved resources are to be used in no such haphazard way. The tithe is the Lord’s, and those who meddle with it will be punished with the loss of their heavenly treasure unless they repent. Let the work no longer be hedged up because the tithe has been diverted into various channels other than the one to which the Lord has said it should go. Provision is to be made for these other lines of work. They are to be sustained but not from the tithe. God has not changed; the tithe is still to be used for the support of the ministry.

The opening of new fields requires more ministerial efficiency than we now have, and there must be means in the treasury.

Those who go forth as ministers have a solemn responsibility devolving upon them which is strangely neglected. Some enjoy preaching, but they do not give personal labor to the churches. There is a great need of instruction concerning the obligations and duties to God, especially in regard to paying an honest tithe. Our ministers would feel sadly aggrieved if they were not promptly paid for their labor; but will they consider that there must be meat in the treasure house of God wherewith to sustain the laborers? If they fail to do their whole duty in educating the people to be faithful in paying to God His own, there will be a shortage of means in the to carry forward the Lord’s work.

If he takes the position that because this is not pleasant to him, he will leave it

- Faithful pastors will instruct and warn the members
- Teach them to be faithful in paying an honest tithe

else to do, he is not a faithful worker. Let him read in Malachi the words of the Lord charging the

people with robbery toward God in withholding the tithes.

The mighty God declares: “Ye are cursed with a curse.”

Malachi 3:9. When the one who ministers in word and doctrine sees the people pursuing a course

that will bring this curse upon them, how can he neglect his duty to give them instruction and warning? Every church member should be taught to be faithful in paying an honest tithe.

“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.” Verse 10.

for someone