



GOSPEL
S O U N D E R S
Rekindling Reformation

TITHES AND OFFERINGS



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PART 3
IT'S USE

Use of the First Tithe

o The Lord has specified: The tenth of all your possessions is Mine; your gifts and offerings are to be brought into the treasury, to be used to advance My cause, **to send the living preacher to open the Scriptures to those who sit in darkness** (*Youth Instructor*, August 26, 1897, emphasis added).

Use of the First Tithe

o“Having had questions directed here to me to answer, I have had special instruction from the Lord that the tithe is for a special purpose, consecrated to God to **sustain those who minister in the sacred work as the Lord's chosen**, to do His work not only in **sermonizing** but in **ministering**”

(Daughters of God, p. 256, emphasis added).

Use of the First Tithe

- “It is to be especially devoted to the support of **those who are bearing God's message** to the world; and it **should not be diverted from this purpose**” (*Review and Herald Supplement*, Dec. 1, 1896, emphasis added).
- “This fund should **not in any case be devoted to any other use**; it is to be devoted solely to support the **ministry of the gospel**” (*Counsels on Stewardship*, p. 80, emphasis added).

Use of the First Tithe

o KEY THOUGHT: The focus of the quotes we have looked at is in how the tithe is used, NOT who is being supported by the tithe. It is role played in doing the work of the Lord which determines if the funds are being used for their rightful purpose, not who is being supported by the tithe.

New Territory Focus

- 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. {*Testimonies to the Church*, vol. 9, p. 249}

New Territory Focus

- o **The reason that the Lord wants all the tithes in the treasury is that there may not be a scarcity of funds when His providence opens new fields to be occupied by the messengers of truth, that souls as precious in the sight of God as your own may come into the knowledge of the true God and Jesus Christ, whom He hath sent, and in their turn become missionaries to the souls of others (*Selections from Testimonies to the Managers and Workers in Our Institutions*, 1923, Pamphlet 149, p. 61, emphasis added).**

New Territory Focus

- o More and more we must come to realize that the means that comes into the conference in **the tithes and gifts of our people should be used for the support of the work not only in the American cities, but also in foreign fields.** Let the means so zealously collected be unselfishly distributed. Those who realize the needs of mission fields will not be tempted to use the tithe for that which is not necessary. (Ms 11, 1908, p. 7, "The Regions Beyond," February 15, 1908, emphasis added).

Improper Use of the Tithe

- School purposes; canvassers and colporteurs (*Counsels on Stewardship*, p. 102; *Testimonies to the Church*, vol. 9, p. 248)
- A poor fund (*Counsels on Stewardship*, p. 103; *Review and Herald*, Dec. 1, 1896 par. 25)
- Incidental expenses of the church (*Counsels on Stewardship*, p. 103; *Manuscript Releases*, vol. 1, p. 184)
- Caring for the house of worship (*Counsels on Stewardship*, p. 102; *Testimonies to the Church*, vol. 9, p. 248)
- School teachers (*Manuscript Releases*, vol. 7, p. 138- The Use of the Tithe, July 29, 1901)
- Emergency personal situations (*Testimonies to the Church*, vol. 9, p. 247)
- Meeting house necessities or charities (*General Conference Bulletin*, July 1, 1897- The Tithe; It's Use and Abuse)
- Medical missionary and other hospitality (*Counsels on Stewardship*, p. 310; *Manuscript Releases*, vol. 14, p. 269)
- Other lines of work (*Testimonies to the Church*, vol. 9, p. 247-250)
- Any other work, gaps made in business lines (*Manuscript Releases*, vol. 1, p. 185)

Divers Ministries

- o Our conferences look to the schools for educated and well-trained laborers, and they should give the schools a most hearty and intelligent support. Light has been plainly given that those who **minister in our schools, teaching the word of God, explaining the Scriptures, educating the students in the things of God, should be supported by the tithe money.** This instruction was given long ago, and more recently it has been repeated again and again (*Testimonies to the Church*, vol. 6, p. 215, emphasis added).

Divers Ministries Continued

o Some utterly fail to realize the importance of **missionaries being also medical missionaries**. A **gospel minister** will be twice as successful in his work if he understands how to treat disease. (*Counsels to the Church*, p.310, emphasis added).

Publishing Work Crossover?

- o When means has been pressed upon me, I have refused it, or appropriated it to such **charitable objects as the Publishing Association** (*Testimonies to the Church*, vol. 1, p. 678, emphasis added).
- o But the **misuse of funds** in former years, before his administration, should not be regarded as casting a reflection upon him. If the conference sanctioned those matters, and **sanctioned paying from the tithe the expenses of those who were working in the interests of the Object Lessons campaign**, Brother Cady should not be blamed for **mismanagement** in these matters, whether the college received little or much from the efforts put forth (*Manuscript Releases*, vol. 14, p. 172, emphasis added)

The Gender Question

- o “God has entrusted talents to His servants, and He expects them to see that mistakes can be readily made. Make no mistake in neglecting to correct the error of giving ministers less than they should receive. When you see persons in necessity who have been placed in positions of trust, let God move upon your heart to set things right. **The tithe should go to those who labor in word and doctrine, be they men or women** (*Manuscript Releases* 149, 1899, p. 3.; *Paying Women Workers*, October 24, 1899, emphasis added).

The Gender Question

- o If women do the work that is not the most agreeable to many of those who labor in word and doctrine, and if their works testify that they are accomplishing a work that has been manifestly neglected, should not such labor be looked upon as being as rich in results as the work of the ordained ministers? Should it not command the hire of the laborer?
- o ...
- o This question is not for men to settle. The Lord has settled it. **You are to do your duty to the women who labor in the gospel, whose work testifies that they are essential to carrying the truth into families.** (*Evangelism*, p. 493; emphasis added).

The Gender Question

o “Women, as well as men, are needed in the work that must be done. Those women who give themselves to the service of the Lord, who labor for the salvation of others by doing house-to-house work, which is as taxing as, and more taxing than standing before a congregation, should receive payment for their labor. **If a man is worthy of his hire, so also is a woman**” (*Daughters of God*, p. 112, emphasis added).

Pastors of the Flock

- o “All who desire an opportunity for true ministry, and who will give themselves unreservedly to God, will find in the canvassing work opportunities to speak upon many things pertaining to the future, immortal life. The experience thus gained will be of the greatest value to those who are fitting themselves for the ministry. **It is the accompaniment of the Holy Spirit of God that prepares workers, both men and women, to become pastors to the flock of God” *The Colporteur Evangelist*, p. 16, emphasis added).**

Gifts vs. Positions

- o In 1 Corinthians 12 and Ephesians 4, Paul outlines gifts of the Spirit; these gifts are given to all God's children, men or women
- o In 1 Timothy 3:1-13 The role and function of the "bishop" is delineated. This person is identified as one who must "be the husband of one wife" and one that "ruleth his own house"; this is a description of a position, not a gift or role being served.

Under-shepherd Roles

- o Those who occupy the position of undershepherds are to exercise a watchful diligence over the Lord's flock. This is not to be a dictatorial vigilance, but one that tends to encourage and strengthen and uplift. Ministry means more than sermonizing; it means earnest, personal labor. The church on earth is composed of erring men and women, who need patient, painstaking effort that they may be trained and disciplined to work with acceptance in this life, and in the future life to be crowned with glory and immortality. Pastors are needed--faithful shepherds--who will not flatter God's people, nor treat them harshly, but who will feed them with the bread of life--men who in their lives feel daily the converting power of the Holy Spirit and who cherish a strong, unselfish love toward those for whom they labor.

Under-shepherd Roles

- o There is tactful work for the undershepherd to do as he is called to meet alienation, bitterness, envy, and jealousy in the church, and he will need to labor in the spirit of Christ to set things in order. Faithful warnings are to be given, sins rebuked, wrongs made right, not only by the minister's work in the pulpit, but by personal labor. The wayward heart may take exception to the message, and the servant of God may be misjudged and criticized. Let him then remember that "the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be entreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy. And the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace of them that make peace." James 3:17, 18. (*Acts of the Apostles*, p. 526)

Gospel Ministry Defined

- o The work of the gospel ministry is the **sowing of the seed**...(*Christ Triumphant*, p. 236, emphasis added).
- o My brethren in the gospel ministry, let us **feed the flock** of God. Let us **bring encouragement and cheerfulness to every heart**. Let us turn the eyes of our brethren and sisters away from the unlovely traits of character possessed by nearly everyone, and **teach them to behold Christ**, the One altogether lovely, the Chiefest among ten thousand.... (*Evangelism*, p. 346, emphasis added)

Gospel Ministry Defined

- o Pages 33-35- “Releasing the Blessings” Booklet
- o There should today be **in the field** one hundred well **qualified laborers** where now there is one. God cannot look upon the present condition of things with approval, but with condemnation. His treasury is deprived of the means that should be used for the support of the **gospel ministry in fields nigh and far off**. Those who **proclaim the message of truth before great congregations**, and who **do house to house work**, are doing double missionary work, and in no case are their salaries to be cut down (*Echoes*, June 21, 1905, par. 3).

Missionary Work Defined

o His service requires, and ever will require, means. The **great missionary work for the salvation of souls** is to be carried forward. In the tithe, with gifts and offerings, God has made ample provision for this work. He intends that the ministry of the gospel shall be fully sustained. He claims the **tithe** as His own, and it should ever be regarded as a **sacred reserve**, to be placed in His treasury **for the benefit of His cause, for the advancement of His work, for sending His messengers into "regions beyond,"** even to the uttermost parts of the earth. (*Christian Service*, p. 71)

Missionary Work Defined

o I am surprised and sore displeased as I see the course that many have taken. And then to put their hands into the treasury that God has appointed to **sustain the ministers in laboring in service to God**, to hold forth the Word of life to others, is another evidence of unfaithful guardianship of the means to be used to **sustain the missionary work by the tithe money**. (*Manuscript Releases*, vol. 21, p. 184, emphasis added)

Home Missionary Work

- o Whatever is the reason they are in need, and to help them is an important line of **home missionary work**. These unfortunate, **needy ones** should not be sent away from home to be cared for. Let each church feel her responsibility to have a special interest in the feeble and the aged. One or two among them can certainly be taken care of. **The tithe should not be appropriated for this work. The word of God has specified how the tithe should be used.** Ms. 43, 1900, p. 10. ("Fragments B. The Prophet, Enoch." Typed, Aug. 2, 1900.) Released September, 1965. {3MR 218.2}

2nd Tithe & Missionary Work

- o There will be an abundance of places to use the **second tithe in doing earnest missionary work** in new places.—
(Letter 103, 1905, p. 5, emphasis added)
- o The consecration to God of a tithe of all increase, whether of the orchard and harvest field, the flocks and herds, or the labor of brain or hand, the devotion of a **second tithe for the relief of the poor and other benevolent uses**, tended to keep fresh before the people the truth of God's ownership of all, and of their opportunity to be channels of His blessings. It was a training adapted to kill out all narrowing selfishness, and to cultivate breadth and nobility of character. (Education, p. 44, emphasis added)

Proving the Call

- o But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry. (2 Timothy 4:5)
- o Those who enter the gospel field should be left to earn themselves a reputation, even if it must be through trials and privations. **They should first give full proof of their ministry.** (*Gospel Workers*, p. 141, emphasis added)

The Proof of Fruit

- o Men who are chosen of God to labor in this cause, will **give proof of their high calling**, and will regard it as their highest duty to grow and improve until they shall become able workmen. Then, **as they manifest an earnestness** to improve upon the talent which God has intrusted to them, they should be **helped judiciously**. But the encouragement given them should not savor of flattery, for Satan himself will do enough of that kind of work. Men who think that they have a duty to preach, should not be sustained in throwing themselves and their families at once upon the brethren for support. They are not entitled to this until they can **show good fruits of their labor.** →

Proving Men & Women

- o If women do the work that is not the most agreeable to many of those who labor in word and doctrine, and if **their works testify that they are accomplishing a work** that has been manifestly neglected, should not such labor be looked upon as being as rich in results as the work of the ordained ministers? Should it not command the hire of the laborer? . . . This question is not for men to settle. The Lord has settled it. You are to do your duty to the women who labor in the gospel, whose **work testifies that they are essential to carrying the truth into families.** (*Evangelism*, p. 493, 1903, emphasis added)

Self Support in Ministry

o There is danger now of injuring young preachers, and those who have but little experience, by flattery, and by relieving them of burdens in life. **When not preaching, they should be doing what they can for their own support. This is the best way to test the nature of their call to preach.** (*Gospel Workers*, p. 146, emphasis added)

Called by Faith

o Today the Saviour calls us, as He called Matthew and John and Peter, to His work. If our hearts are touched by His love, the question of compensation will not be uppermost in our minds. We shall rejoice to be co-workers with Christ, and we shall not fear to trust His care. If we make God our strength, we shall have clear perceptions of duty, and unselfish aspirations; our life will be actuated by a noble purpose, which will raise us above sordid motives. (*Gospel Workers*, p. 114)

Circumstantial Faith?

o Ministers cannot carry the burden of the work while at the same time they are carrying the burden of farms or other business enterprises, having their hearts on their earthly treasures. Their spiritual discernment is dimmed. They cannot appreciate the wants of the cause of God, and therefore cannot put forth well-directed efforts to meet its emergencies and to advance its interests. **They constantly seek to shape the work in accordance with their circumstances, in place of shaping** circumstances to meet the demands of the cause of God. The want of a full consecration to the work on the part of the minister is soon felt all through the field where he labors. If his own standard is low, he will not bring others to accept a higher one. (Gospel Workers⁹², p. 197, emphasis added)

Supporting the Called

o There is a lack of ministers because ministers have not been encouraged. Some ministers who have been sent to foreign lands, to enter fields never before worked, have been given the instruction, "**You must sustain yourselves.** We have not the means with which to support you." **This ought not to be if the tithe, with gifts and offerings, was brought into the treasury.** When a man enters the ministry, he is to be paid from the tithe enough to sustain his family. **He is not to feel that he is a beggar. →**

Supporting the Called

The impression is becoming quite common that the sacred disposition of the tithe no longer exists. Many have lost their sense of the Lord's requirements. 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' reserved portion.

Many ministers are lying in their graves, brought there by sorrow and disappointment, and by the hardship brought upon them because they did not receive sufficient for their labors. (*Echoes*, June 21, 1905)

Wake up!

o There is to be special labor given to awaken the people of God who believe the truth, to give a faithful tithe to the Lord, and ministers should be encouraged and sustained by that tithe. (*Daughters of God*, p. 256)

More Faithfulness

- o At present time the means from the churches must not be diverted into so many different channels that the treasury is emptied. **Our people need to be faithful in paying their tithe, that the ministry may be supported,** and the necessary work done in this line. **Many more camp-meetings must be held.** Efforts are to be put forth for the people all through the camp-meeting. **Visiting is to be done.** Words in season are to be spoken. Efforts are to be made to make the meetings **revival meetings.** And after the camp-meetings the work is not to cease. (Battle Creek Letters p. 17)

Deep and Wide

God never designed that the law of the tithing system should be of no account among His people; but, instead of this, He designed that the **spirit of sacrifice should widen and deepen for the closing work.** (Testimonies Vol. 3, p. 396)

A Greater Requirement

Now God calls upon you, in your turn, to make great efforts and to sacrifice in order to place the truth before those who are in darkness. **God requires this.** You profess to believe the truth; let your works testify to the fact. Unless your faith works, it is dead. Nothing but a living faith will save you in the fearful scenes which are just before you. (Testimonies Vol. 1, p. 191, emphasis added)

All For His Glory

Not only does God require the tithe, but He requires that **all we have be used to His glory.** There must be no spendthrift habits; it is God's property that we are handling. Not one dollar or one shilling is our own. The squandering of money in luxuries deprives the poor of the means necessary to supply them with food and clothing. (Christian Service, p. 299)

A Greater Obligation

- o **Christ asks for all. It will not do to withhold anything.** (Signs of the Times, April 20, 1876 p. 13)
- o The liberality required of the Hebrews was largely to benefit their own nation; today the work of God extends over all the earth. ... **Surely our obligations are much greater than were those of ancient Israel.** (Acts of the Apostles, p. 337.2)

Purpose Behind the Plan

It is to cultivate a spirit of benevolence in us that the Lord calls for our gifts and offerings. He is not dependent upon men for means to sustain His cause
“The world is mine and the fullness thereof”. (Signs of the Times, Jan. 21, 1886)

Designed with Purpose

- o **Constant, self-denying benevolence is God's remedy for the cankering sins of selfishness and covetousness. ...Continual giving starves covetousness to death. Systematic benevolence is designed in the order of God to tear away treasures from the covetous as fast as they are gained and to consecrate them to the Lord, to whom they belong. {3T 548.1}**

A Choice, A Test

I saw that **in the arrangement of systematic benevolence, hearts will be tested and proved.** It is a constant, living test. It brings one to understand his own heart, to see whether the truth or the love of the world predominates. Here is a **test** for the naturally selfish and covetous. (Testimonies Vol. 1, p. 221, emphasis added)

A Choice, A Test

All are required to have an interest in this work ...Some have never made any sacrifice for the cause of God, and are asleep as to what God **requires** of them...This individual sacrifice is not **required** because the cause of God is suffering for means. **But every heart will be tested and its character developed.** It is principle that God's people must act upon. **The living principle must be carried out in the life.** (Spiritual Gifts Vol. 4B, p. 53,emphais added)

Heart Service

The Lord will use all who will give themselves to be used. But he requires heart service. "My son," he says, "give me thine heart." **When the heart is given to God, our talents, our energy, our possessions, all we have and are, will be devoted to his service.** (RH, May 15, 1900 par. 11)

Systematic Sanctification

- o This tithing system, I saw, would **develop character**, and manifest the true state of the heart {1T 237.1}
- o Those who would gain the blessing of **sanctification** must first learn the meaning of **self-sacrifice**. ...It is the fragrance of our love for our fellow men that reveals our love for God. {AA 560.2}

Consecrated Labor

No man can succeed in the service of God unless his whole soul is in the work, and he **counts all things but loss** for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ. **Whoever makes any reserve, whoever refuses to give all that he has, cannot be the disciple of Christ; much less can he be his co-laborer. The consecration must be complete.** RH, June 3, 1880 p. 7

Safe to Bless

He wants us to have all our interests interwoven with his interests, and then he can **safely bless us**; for we shall not then take glory to self when the blessing is ours, but shall render all the praise to God. {RH, June 9, 1891 par. 1}

True Prosperity

- o Those churches who are the **most systematic and liberal** in sustaining the cause of God are the **most prosperous spiritually.** {3T 405.1}
- o By using our property to advance the cause of God, our uncertain riches are placed in an **unfailing bank.** {RH, April 7, 1896 par. 6}

True Fulfillment

And it is only as we fulfill the divine purpose in our creation that life can be a blessing to us. All the good gifts of God to man will prove only a curse, unless he employs them to bless his fellow men, and for the advancement of God's cause in the earth.--R. & H., Dec. 7, 1886.

Double Blessings

When human sympathy is blended with love and benevolence, and sanctified by the Spirit of Jesus, it is an element which can be productive of great good. Those who cultivate benevolence are not only doing a good work for others, and **blessing those who receive the good action,** but they are **benefiting themselves by opening their hearts to the benign influence of true benevolence.** *4T 56*

He Is Able

And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work.

2 Corinthians 9:8

God Gives More

o Every effort made for Christ will react in blessing upon ourselves. **If we use our means for His glory, He will give us more.** As we seek to win others to Christ, bearing the burden of souls in our prayers, our own hearts will throb with the quickening influence of God's grace; our own affections will glow with more divine fervor; our whole Christian life will be more of a reality, more earnest, more prayerful. {COL 354.2, emphasis added}

A Sure Paymaster

God is a sure paymaster. He may not pay you **weekly, monthly, or yearly,** but he pays surely in the end. If you are true to your stewardship, results will appear somewhere for the glory of God; and **his glory is the salvation of souls for whom Christ died.**

{1T 221.3}

Freely, Freely

Freely you have received;
freely give

Matthew 10:8