

HONOR THE LORD WITH THY SUBSTANCE

H. Holt

In this dark age of get-rich-quick, many gimmicks are used to trap people into giving. They tell of men who have made their millions by giving to God a certain portion, and if everyone would do the same they would share in the same blessings. They never mention the work and suffering these men have endured, nor the ability God has given them to get wealth. The impression left in their minds is that God is some sort of a vending machine; you put in a dime and out pops a dollar, just as simple as that. Great stress is laid on tithe-paying, but remember if you receive tithes and you fail in the administration it would have been better for you to have never seen them. The tithes are the Lord's and there is a very definite place to put them. Tithes are not for building fancy structures but they are for the ministry, the poor, the widow and orphan.

Do not be deceived with all the hocus-pocus of men, for tithing will only do what God has said. He will not fulfill their promises for you. You may think that the moment you pay your tithes the fruit will immediately appear. This is not the usual way the increase appears. In the past men have had people send in money and they were to pray over it and by some hocus-pocus it was to increase. This is just deception. God has no part in it regardless if some seem to have some results. Your heavenly Father never works in such a shoddy manner. He will share a partnership with one and hold a tenth interest. On the increase He requires you to put it where He has set His name. Here He takes a personal interest in His own affairs of which your interest is involved. I will quote from the records so there is no question about this. "Will a man rob God? Yet ye robbed me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee? In Tithes and offerings" (Malachi 3:8)

If this tithe is the property of God He could easily say, "Ye have robbed me" when you keep this amount for yourselves. It is not optional for a believer to do as he pleases; Tithing is a must. If you are in a partnership with a person and you both had fifty per cent interest, on the day of settlement of the profits you would rightly own half. If your partner ran away with your share it would be stealing. If he had some urgent need and he just used your share without consent he would be up for embezzlement. You have an optional agreement with God covering this matter, for if you use the tithe you must add a fifth part of the amount used. It works out to twenty per cent for the duration of the loan. Leviticus 27:30-31, "And all the tithe of the land, whether of the seed of the land, or the fruit of the tree, is the Lord's: IT IS HOLY UNTO THE LORD. And if a man will at all redeem ought of his tithes, HE SHALL ADD THERETO THE FIFTH PART THEREOF." The tithes are the Lord's. You must put His share where He has mentioned.

There came a time when God was to set an order for Israel. When they were to pass over Jordan a great change was to take place. It seemed every man did as he pleased before this in matters concerning offerings and sacrifices. Here is what he said would happen after the crossing. "Ye shall not do after all the things that we do here this day. EVERY MAN WHAT IS RIGHT IN HIS OWN EYES. (here is the reason) For ye are not as yet to THE REST, AND TO THE INHERITANCE, which the Lord thy God giveth you. BUT WHEN YE GO OVER THE JORDAN, AND DWELL IN THE LAND WHICH THE LORD YOUR GOD GIVETH YOU

TO INHERIT, AND WHEN HE GIVETH YOU REST FROM YOUR ENEMIES ROUND ABOUT, SO THAT YE DWELL SAFELY." (Deut. 12:8-10)

Now I'm sure, you that will read this will understand something of this experience of the crossing of the Jordan. The wandering is over. Rest is seen on the horizon. Joshua didn't give this rest as the scriptures testify but Jesus the Son of God, He is the rest. Here was but the shadow of the real. This was the type being drawn on the sands of time. The promised land was but a shadow of a better kingdom. The end of the long trek out of Egypt to the crossing of the Jordan was but a type of the true rest in Christ.

In verse eleven of Duet. 12 the place is now coming into view in shadowy form or in type as to where the offering should be put. "Then there shall be a place which the LORD YOUR GOD SHALL CHOOSE to cause His name to dwell there; tithes shall ye bring of all that I command you; your burnt-offerings, your sacrifices, your tithes, and the heave-offerings of your hand, and all your choice vows which ye vowed unto the Lord ... TAKE HEED TO THYSELF THAT THOU OFFER NOT THY BURNT-OFFERINGS IN EVERY PLACE THAT THOU SEEST; but in the place WHICH THE LORD SHALL CHOOSE in one of thy tribes,"

The true rest is Christ. He is the end of all our wanderings. To know where you belong in the body of Christ and to share your ministry with the rest of the body of Christ, the Church, that is where He has placed His name. You may have been like the Israelites of old, offering in every place you felt like. This must come to an end. You may have given to every man and everything, but this must stop. Now you must know by his Spirit, where He has put His name. This is the end of all hocus-pocus. This is the end of giving to try to gain favour with your Heavenly Father. Here you know the way. Here is rest. You may have gone without to satisfy the demands of men, but there is no rest there. You may have sponsored some fine programs, and your generosity is known to many, but is it where He has put His name, or are you an offerer in every place? I hope this is the end of all that for you. Though you give all you have, what does it profit if it is not where He wants it?

THE PLACE OF HIS NAME

1 Corinthians 16:1, "Now concerning the collection for the saints. AS I HAVE GIVEN ORDER TO THE CHURCH OF GALATIA, EVEN SO DO YE" This is an order to the church. If you belong to the church, "EVEN SO DO YE." This is not a request but an order. This is not optional, this is an order.

When should one put his tithes in? 1 Corinthians 16:2, "Upon the first day of the week let EVERY ONE OF YOU LAY BY HIM IN STORE, as God has prospered him, that there be no gathering when I come." The time then is made clear to all. If you are on a monthly salary you should pay your tithes on the first day of the week after that. If you're a farmer as soon as the increase is sold, pay the tithe on the first day of the week after that. Do not hold your tithe back to dribble them in just to have something to put on the offering plate. We worship God, not man. If God gives you your increase in one lump sum give God His portion the same way. There is no sense playing being generous. The church should know that to some God gives much and to some little. Let the man whom the Lord has given the wisdom to get wealth see to it that he learns how to communicate. The same Lord who is wise in these matters can easily see who are

good stewards. Let the man to whom the Lord has given little see to it that he isn't a murmurer, full of dissatisfaction. Let him be free of covetousness, for there are worse states than being poor. To be rich and not know how to give is worse than being afflicted with cancer. James speaks of men so afflicted, James 5: 1-3, "Go to now, ye richmen, weep and howl for your miseries THAT SHALL COME upon you. Your riches are corrupted, and your garments are moth-eaten. Your gold and silver is cankered; and the rust of them shall be a witness against you, and shall eat your flesh as it were fire. Ye have heaped treasures together for the last days,"

There is no sin in being wealthy. Abraham and Job were men of wealth. The scriptures teach, 3 John 2, "Above all things I wish that ye were prosperous and in health even as thy soul prospers." We are charged to instruct both poor and rich for God has made them both. One is not without the other. The poor we shall have with us always or where would be our opportunity to give. 1 Timothy 6: 17-19, "Charge them that are rich in this world, that they be not high-minded, nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the Living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy; that they do good, and they be rich in good works, ready to distribute, willing to communicate; Laying up in store for themselves a good foundation against the time to come that they may lay hold on eternal life."

Here is a word of advice, and I think I have the mind of Christ. To the man to whom God has given the ability to get wealth, I find a common fear, and they pursue a common course. It is the uncertain future. No doubt that makes them do what they do, but a firmer walk with their heavenly Father will banish this fear. We are called time and again to help with wills. We are asked to administer large amounts of money after death which I think should and could be attended to by the ones God has given the ministry to get wealth.

When I say what I have said, it is not to make wasters but to encourage those whom God has given this ability to get wealth, to administer to their fullest ability. The person who has worked hard for what they have could be the best qualified to administer it while they live, not putting the responsibility on one to whom God has not given this ability. Wills often put in the hands of novices is a weapon that destroys them, and instead of leaving a blessing the lethal weapon curses.

There is no doubt wills must be used to care for estates, but let the living who walk with God do as he bids, and what must be cared for after that will cause no concern. We do not set out life to the tune of our later days, for the life span of man is growing longer. If you're thinking of three score and ten, change that, or seventy years in the kingdom is but a drop in the bucket. That is the time of life. Don't let this world crowd you into its mould. People plan to die, let us plan to live. The earth is full of people over seventy and hundreds have crossed the century mark.

HONOR THE LORD

Most want to do this, but owing to the fact that they do not understand, they miss the way. Let me give some help in this matter. Honor God by giving Him the credit of having understanding enough to formulate an order to secure our lives. Honor Him by appreciating His love for you and yours. Honor the partnership He has set up for your care and security. There is a way you can cast all your care upon Him. He desires you to lie secure and free, not as the world under pressure and fear. They have no plans for their life but you have. They must by force and

thrift put away for they fear old age. Your heavenly Father says, "My son forget not my laws; but let thine heart keep my commandments; FOR LENGTH OF DAYS, AND LONG LIFE, AND PEACE, SHALL THEY ADD TO THEE." (Proverbs 3:1-2) Honor the Lord by agreeing that he knows the end from the beginning. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and he shall direct thy paths. Honor this partnership and enter into the fullness, then you will share in all its blessings. Trust the business you are in into His hands. Make it conform to His plan, and He will bring to pass what He has declared.

Honor the Lord with thy substance, and with the first fruits of thine increase. You must do this to enter the secure order of God. Here is where he makes you trust. He will give you opportunity to turn back, by allowing some bad times to appear. Once you have settled it and taken out His portion under all circumstances the exam is over. As the night follows the day so will blessing follow order. Proverbs 3:10, "So shall thy barns be filled with plenty and thy presses shall burst out with new wine."

HONOR THE LORD BY RIGHT GIVING

Now if God has made possible a partnership so you can give, surely there must be a place to put the gift. The partnership is of little value if His share is scattered high wide and handsome. You put it in every place that comes to mind. You give to every fly-by-night person who comes along. This has little if any of God in it at all. When you come to your rest, there is in this order a place to put His portion. When he set the place for His name after the crossing of the Jordan all Israel knew where to put it. Paul knew where it should go. That is why he said "I have given orders to the church of Galatia even so do ye. Upon the first day of the week LET EVERY ONE OF YOU LAY BY in store, as God has prospered you." Prosperity is in the hand of God.

The Church is the place where He has set His name. The Church is His body. Every group that may gather feels it is in order for them to do so, but in the confusion of the end time He will come forth and separate until you will see, it will be the Church AT Galatia or the Church AT Chicago. The Church needs no other name than His. Every man having his own order building something for God after his own planning is dishonoring to the Most High. He needs no plans of man. He planned redemption by His Son. He planned the Church. He planned the rest. He planned the order. A man-made church is filled with program and is devoid of rest. To control it, it must be dominated by a strong figure or it will fall apart. These can be built into large bodies but they fall apart at the seams when leading figures die. The church is not built on men but the Man Christ Jesus. The Church is a living organism. Men build by the power of organization. One is a statue; the other is a life-giving body. The Church has the power to make increase of itself. The other needs dynamic personalities to press buttons, pull levers to make the robot move. Remove the dynamo and the machine will stand till time removes it. The Church depends on every member supplying, as you do your own body. The foot needs the eye. God made the human body and He also is responsible for the church. As the function of the human is of His cunning craftsmanship so is the increase of the Church. As man can create disorder in his body so he can in the Church. As a robot is utterly ugly beside the fragile, delicate yet beautiful body so is this man-made machine beside the Church. To run a robot an intricate pattern is necessary, but the order of the Church is God's.

The local church is part of the universal church. The same order prevails throughout. All are members of His body. This church then is made up of living members. All the operation of this body differs in every member. If a thousand prophesied they all would exhort, comfort and edify, but everyone would vary in shades, and every member would be necessary. The energy behind all the gifts and ministries is the Holy Ghost. Human wisdom is foolishness in His sight. He needs no lessons how to control audiences. He has no gags to get them to repent. He sits at the console and when the church is meeting He moves on the members of the Body of Christ and like a great organ it peals forth Redemption's song, Jesus Saves! Not only that, but He can do this in every place where the church meets with the same power, till the very foundations of the earth would shake. He can whisper His love in the ears of every member till hearts would leap for joy. To the sinners He could tell of Jesus' love, and show him the price He paid till no sinner could withstand His pleadings.

I remember a very young energetic man who wanted the perfect pastorate. He travelled far and wide filling his notebook on church building designs, and different systems of Sunday school and service programs. I visited this fancy building that represented hours of hard work and thousands of dollars. He had a beautiful office with deep carpets, to counsel in and prepare for all his meetings. The main auditorium was large and expensively finished. A phone hung inside the pulpit and one by the organ. A microphone could allow the one at the pulpit to speak to the entire Sunday school in all their different rooms. The outside was as magnificent as the inside. This took work, time and money and lots of it. When I saw this I knew whose plan it was, for I knew the man. When he leaves this world, time will level all his work, and only that which the Holy Ghost did will remain. People will get saved in all this cluttered effort but there is a much better way. This is the way, lay aside all of the ways of men and walk in the order of God.

All the members of the local church receive the Holy Ghost, and imparted to them are the spiritual gifts. These are to operate in the local meeting. No fancy solo by some soloist who wants to be heard but a song of the Spirit. Some of these you will know but He can give you a song that has never been sung before, and you need no rehearsal. He can do the same with instruments. I have heard whole congregations sing a new song untaught by man, but singing under the direction of the Holy Spirit. Over the local church preside the elders. They have been given the oversight of the flock by the Holy Ghost. Some elders are strong speakers, others can say but little. Their boldness is in that God set them. They come not with enticing words of man's wisdom but the power of the Holy Ghost. They are fathers over the flock no men hired. This is where the tithes must be put. These elders are the true administrators. Here the widow and orphan will share in the tithe.

I feel sorry for the people for many can't tell the real from the unreal. If there is a large crowd and lots of noise and program, to them that is wonderful and God is blessing. If people get saved that is the seal of God's approval. There were children born to our father Abraham who didn't have the approval of God, so why should that be proof? God knows who are His and who aren't. This modern machine is to the Church what kings were to Israel. God allowed it but he wanted to rule through the Judges and Prophets. He told them the kings would oppress them and they did. He comforted Samuel by telling him the people hadn't rejected him but God. This confusion is the rejection of God's rule. The father's God desires to set over his people are rejected for the self-styled pastor.

HOW TO KNOW THE TRUE

I am very fond of fine jewels. I enjoy going into places where men who know gems can tell me of their structure. The imitation of certain gems is very hard to detect. I remember once my wife and I were about to secure a semi-precious stone. I had no way of knowing whether it was real or not, so we took it to an expert. He took one look at the underside and to this day I don't know what he saw but he shook his head and said it was simulated. He knew where to look and what to look for.

We meet the people who believe in the church order and all the gifts and ministries, submission, tithing and looking after the widows and orphans and they can quote chapter and verse, but the Holy Ghost knows the real from the unreal and he whispers, "simulated." One doesn't have to be with them long before the Spirit of God will show the real from the unreal.

You may ask me to tell you how can you know the true from the false. There is only one sure way and that is by the Holy Ghost. The young girl following Paul telling the people to listen to him was false but what she said was true.

"My sheep hear my voice and will not follow another." To be safe and have rest you must follow him. As many as are led by the Spirit of God they are the Sons of God. The only rest is in His Church. That is the place of His name. It is not hard to follow God but you can't lead Him. You must honor Him by following and doing what he says, and going where He sends. To follow God is the end of all your plans. You may be rich in these and can't give them up. You may have great ambitions to preach, and you have equipped yourself so you are second to none, tops in your class, but He has no place for you in Saul's armour. You may be filled with music and you want to use all your talent for God so rather than do housework you must preach and sing. These can easily blind you and stop your ear from hearing His voice. One thing you can be sure of, God will give you opportunity to turn your back and your ambition may be the thing that does it. Proverbs 3:21-24, "My son, keep sound wisdom and discretion; so shall they be life unto the soul, and grace to thy neck. Then thou shalt walk in thy way safely, and thy foot shall not stumble. When thou liest down, thou shalt not be afraid; yea thou shalt lie down, and thy sleep shall be sweet."

I have worked for the large organization and know of their ways. They are filled with unrest and their leaders collapse from heart attacks because of the pressure of this large machine. It becomes like a nation with a government over it, with men striving for top offices. They tell others of a rest when they are filled with unrest.

I have lived to see the day I was taken out and now to rejoice in His way. This is the rest; His church is the haven, a place of healing, a solace to the weary. All the members of His body are important to the whole. No more one-man ministry, blessed be His Name. This is where His name is, your rest is found here. May your path grow brighter and brighter as you walk in His way.