

But — *What proportion?*

Does our Lord Jesus Christ expect that born-again Christians, in the New Testament dispensation, will continue to pay the tenth to the Lord?

Turn to one of the New Testament Epistles. In the seventh chapter of the Epistle to the Hebrews, the inspired writer points out that Melchizedek, of Old Testament times, was a type of Christ. Abraham, returning from the rescue of his nephew Lot, paid tithes to Melchizedek. Melchizedek received them as his due. The writer then goes on to say,

"Here men that die receive tithes; but there he (Christ) receiveth them, of whom it is written that he liveth."  
(Hebrews 7:8).

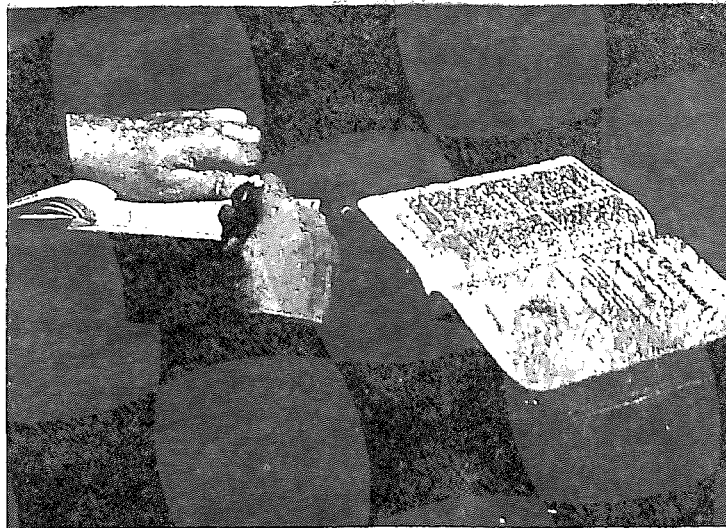
But Christ does not receive tithes unless His people pay the tithe! The New Testament teaches very clearly that born-again Christians will want to pay their tithes in to the Lord's work; for Christ is waiting to receive them.

This is not some burdensome duty, but a glad privilege. Dean Prideanz who wrote in the seventeenth century, declared, "In the first ages of the church I confess we find no mention of tithes, because the zeal of the Christians was then such that they gave more in their voluntary offerings than the tithe would amount to."

If the Hebrew of ancient days paid his tithe to Almighty God, surely the Christian for whom Christ died will not be content with paying less toward his Saviour's interests. It is not stern duty, but the law of love for our Saviour, that impels us to bring our tithes and consecrate them to the work of His Church.

In some areas of human experience, giving is not a burden but a privilege.

—Stewardship Committee  
of the  
Reformed Presbyterian Church



How Much  
for my  
Saviour's Interests?



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A mother, giving a birthday present to her small daughter, doesn't moan about it; she rejoices in it. A young man giving a diamond ring to the girl he loves, doesn't scowl during the presentation; it is one of the highest moments of his life. The law of love supersedes the economic law which tells us that "a penny saved is a penny earned."

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The born-again Christian recognizes the need for giving to the Lord's work. He recognizes that local church expenses cannot be met, the minister cannot be paid, the church's missionaries cannot be supported, and the enterprises of his denomination cannot be carried forward, unless the Lord's people give to the Lord's work.

But the very practical question arises: "How much shall I give?"

The Bible tells us,

"Honour the Lord with thy substance, and with the first fruits of all thine increase." (Proverbs 3:9.)

This clearly indicates proportionate giving. And that seems fair enough. But — *What proportion?*

1/5? 1/10? 1/99? 1/275?

## IN OLD TESTAMENT TIMES

In Old Testament times the command of God was very specific. His people were to bring the tenth, or the tithe, of their increase to Him. On Mount Sinai when God gave the Ten Commandments, He also gave this command:

"And all the tithe of the land, whether of the seed of the land, or of



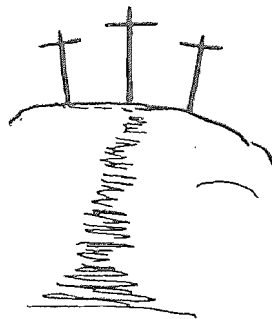
the fruit of the tree, is the Lord's: it is holy unto the Lord . . . And concerning the tithe of the herd, or of the flock, even of whatsoever passeth under the rod, the tenth shall be holy unto the Lord." (Leviticus 27:30, 32)

This was God's final command to Israel on Mount Sinai. Thereafter, one tenth of all that they would possess was to be set aside as "Holy unto the Lord." When His people failed to set aside the tenth for the Lord, God said to them,

"Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings." (Malachi 3:8).

All Bible students recognize that the types and shadows of the Old Testament worship found their fulfillment in Christ. Such things as the sacrifices and

the sprinkling of blood in the temple, had their fulfillment in the death of Jesus Christ on the Cross, when He shed His blood for our sins. When Christ died, the veil of the temple was "rent in twain from the top to the bottom." The temple and all of its Old Testament worship were done away with. A new dispensation, under a new covenant, was established by our Lord Himself.



## IN NEW TESTAMENT TIMES

Is there any rule given us in New Testament times, to guide us in our giving?

The Apostle Paul declares that in New Testament times, our giving is to be proportionate.

"Upon the first day of the week, let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him." (1 Corinthians 16:2).

