

# SUPPORT OF THE MINISTRY

## **1. WHAT is one way in which we are commanded to honor God?**

“Honor the Lord *with thy substance, and with the first-fruits of all thine increase.*” **Proverbs 3:9.**

## **2. What part of one’s income has the Lord especially claimed as His?**

“And *all the tithe [tenth] 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.*” **Leviticus 27:30.**

## **3. For whose support and for what work was the tithe devoted in Israel?**

“Behold, I have given *the children of Levi* all the tenth in Israel for an inheritance, *for their service which they serve, even the service of the tabernacle of the congregation.*” **Numbers 18:21.**

## **4. In what language does Paul approve of the same method of support for the gospel ministry?**

“If we have sown unto you spiritual things, is it a great thing if we shall reap your carnal things? . . . Do ye 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 ordained that they which preach the gospel should live of the gospel.*” **1Corinthians 9:11–14.**

## **5. Upon what fundamental basis does the requirement of tithing rest.**

“*The earth is the Lord’s, and the fullness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein.*” **Psalm 24:1.**

## **6. Who owns all the gold and silver in the world?**

“The silver is Mine, and the gold is Mine, saith the Lord of hosts.” **Haggai 2:8.**

## **7. Who owns all the cattle and fowls of the earth?**

“For every beast of the forest is Mine, and the cattle upon a thousand hills. I know all the fowls of the mountains: and the wild beasts of the field are Mine.” **Psalm 50:10, 11.**

**8. Who gives man power to get wealth?**

“But thou shalt remember the Lord thy God: for *it is He that giveth thee power to get wealth.*” **Deuteronomy 8:18.**

**9. What statement of Christ shows that man is not an original owner, but a steward of God’s goods?**

“For the kingdom of heaven is as a man traveling into a far country, who called his own servants, and *delivered unto them his goods.*” **Matthew 25:14.** See **1Corinthians 4:7.**

**10. How early in the history of the world do we read of tithe-paying?**

“For this Melchisedec, king of Salem, priest of the most high God, who met Abraham returning from the slaughter of the kings, and blessed him; to whom also *Abraham gave a tenth part of all.*” **Hebrews 7:1, 2.** See **Genesis 14:17-20.**

**11. What vow did Jacob make at Bethel?**

“And 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 *of all that Thou shalt give me I will surely give the tenth unto Thee.*” **Genesis 28:20-22.**

**NOTE** — It is thus evident that the duty of paying tithes was recognized by the patriarchs as a religious obligation.

**12. After what order was Christ made a high priest?**

“Whither the forerunner is for us entered, even *Jesus, made an high priest forever after the order of Melchisedec.*” **Hebrews 6:20.**

**NOTE** — As Christ’s priesthood succeeded the Aaronic or Levitical priesthood, which was supported by the tithes of Israel; and as Christ was made a priest after the order of Melchisedec, who received tithes of the patriarchs before the Levitical priesthood was ordained, it is but logical and natural to conclude that the ministry under Christ’s priesthood should be supported by the same means as were both of these priesthoods,—the tithes of God’s people.

**13. Did Christ Himself approve of tithe-paying?**

“Ye pay tithes of mint and anise and cummin, and have omitted the weightier matters of the law, judgment, mercy, and faith: *these ought ye to have done*, and not to leave the other undone.” **Matthew 23:23.**

**14. Of what is one guilty who withholds the tithe and free-will offerings?**

“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.**

**15. Concerning what does the Lord ask us to prove Him, and upon what conditions does He promise great blessings?**

“*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. And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, and he shall not destroy the fruits of your ground; neither shall your vine cast her fruit before the time in the field, saith the Lord of hosts.” **Verses 10, 11.**

My gracious Lord, I own Thy right  
To every service I can pay,  
And call it my supreme delight  
To hear Thy dictates, and obey.  
What is my being, but for Thee,—  
Its sure support, its noblest end?  
'Tis my delight Thy face to see,  
And serve the cause of such a Friend.  
I would not sigh for worldly joy,  
Or to increase my worldly good;  
Nor future days or powers employ  
To spread a sounding name abroad.  
'Tis to my Saviour I would live—  
To Him who for my ransom died;  
Nor could all worldly honor give  
Such bliss as crowns me at His side.

PHILIP DODDRIDGE.