

“Missions Wait on Stewardship”

MRS. CARTER WRIGHT

(NOTE: In this tract, ten great and fundamental truths concerning missions and stewardship are accentuated by being printed in capitals and “framed”. Each of them would make a striking placard.

Mrs. Cronk said: “Every bare wall is a missionary opportunity”. Why not have these placards made and put up—one each month—on the walls of your church, earnestly praying that through eye-gate, the Spirit may bring conviction and compulsion to hearts?)

The one great imperative for missions and stewardship is that final and all-inclusive command of our Master and Lord, the Imperial Christ:

“GO YE into ALL the WORLD”

—Mark 16:15

How can they “GO” “EXCEPT THEY BE SENT”;

—Rom. 10:15

Christ came to establish that Kingdom which is the theme of the Scriptures, the goal of prophecy, the ultimate purpose of Jehovah in the creation of man. On Calvary He paid the price of citizenship in that Kingdom for earth's people. Henceforth, “all authority” in heaven and earth is His. This Royal Edict—“His earthly ultimatum”—was the

marching orders given His blood-bought followers as they should go forth to extend that Kingdom "to the uttermost part of the earth". Not one of His followers is exempt. ALL MUST GO. Of course, not all must go in person, for how can they go "except they be sent"? Sending is as necessary as going. The carrying out of this command is to be the task supreme for all who are called by His name.

But as Christ looks down from His exalted position at God's right hand, does He see His churches intent upon their sublime mission? Far from it! The vast majority of Christians are neither "going" nor "sending." Southern Baptists have barely five hundred missionaries beyond their own borders. More volunteers must be "called out." Kingdom enterprises need to be enlarged. Harvest fields are white; nations are calling. What delays the progress of Missions? A shortage of funds in God's treasury is one reason. But what lies back of that?

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Then—did God fail to provide for the expense of this work nearest His heart? Is it supposable that God would establish a Kingdom, requiring resources far beyond any other undertaking beneath the stars, and leave it without a plan for its financing? Would God leave this great necessity of His Kingdom to human impulses, to haphazard methods of finance that the honorable business man would scorn? The fact is God has provided abundant revenue for His Kingdom. Christians have in their possession one-fifth of the wealth of the world. God says one-tenth of their income is His, and He has directed them to use it for the extension of his Kingdom.

Here is God's age-old financial plan:

**"BRING the WHOLE TITHE into the
STORE HOUSE.
I WILL POUR OUT A BLESSING."**

—Mal. 3:10

If Christians were paying their tithes, God's Kingdom work would have all the money needed to send the Gospel to every nook and corner of the world.

Notice that the gracious Heavenly Father even offers a rich reward to those who obey this command,—“windows of Heaven opened,” blessings, temporal and spiritual, poured out in overflowing measure.

Many times we hear it said that when professing Christians get right spiritually, the money will come. Very true. But they cannot get right spiritually until they get right with God on the money question,—until they cease to “rob God.” Note the order. God does not say “I will pour you out a blessing that there shall not be room enough to receive it and then you go and get your tithe and bring it in.” No,—God's order has ever been obedience first, blessings to follow.

There is no greater fallacy than that which is prevalent concerning the purpose of the tithe. Let us forever remember that primarily

TITHING IS NOT A SCHEME FOR
RAISING MONEY. IT IS GOD'S PLAN
for SAVING MEN'S SOULS from the
DEADLY SIN of COVETOUSNESS.

It is absurd to imagine that the Almighty God, Creator and Possessor of heaven and earth is dependent upon man for anything.

Why, then, has God, from the days of Cain and Abel, taught His children to bring to Him tithes and offerings? The God who made men knows them. He is after hearts. To get men's hearts, He must get their treasures. So said our Savior. Loving and giving are inseparable.

Covetousness is the well-nigh universal sin, even among Christians; it is one we can be guilty of all our lives and not recognize. Such was the case of the rich young ruler;—and it probably cost him his soul.

“Take heed and beware of covetousness” solemnly warns our Lord. We do not have to be rich to

be covetous. To covet means to want for ourselves that which belongs to another. We have coveted God's tenth to the extent that we have robbed Him of it to use for our own selves. This is the sole reason for depleted church treasuries and mission debts.

John Wesley Duncan says: "Have we thought how easy it would be for the infinite God to uncover a gold mine and send missionaries to the ends of the earth without what we call 'our money'? But in thus saving the world, He would lose the church. God has laid the evangelization of the world upon the heart of the church; and the church in saving the world saves herself, and in losing the world loses herself."

Let us remember also that

**"THE TITHE IS THE LORD'S"—Lev. 27:30.
GOD COLLECTS.**

"Every man pays that tenth that belongs to God. Nations pay it because no man or combination of men is smart enough to side-step any law of God and get away with it" (*A. T. Robertson*).

God has many ways of collecting,—pests, droughts, crop failures, fires, floods, depressions, wars.

(Please read Amos 4:6-12; Haggai 1:5-11; Joel 2:25. Sounds as if it were written in our day, doesn't it?)

All these chastisements were sent upon sinning Israel as God was mercifully trying to save His people from ruin. "Yet have ye not returned unto Me, saith the Lord."

Have we learned our lesson? Would it not be wise to heed the following advice?

**BETTER MAKE YOUR OFFERINGS
ACCORDING TO YOUR INCOME
LEST THE LORD BE DISPLEASED
AND MAKE YOUR INCOME
ACCORDING TO YOUR OFFERINGS.**

If God gave you this year just nine times as much as you gave Him last year, how would you fare?

Tithes and offerings are not only the test of our honesty and obedience and the proof of our love, but they are our one chance of being rich.—“rich toward God.” For

“WITH THAT WHICH WE CANNOT
KEEP
WE MAY OBTAIN THAT
WHICH WE CANNOT LOSE.”

And now will you forget, for the moment, all other Christians and turn the spotlight upon just one?—that one being YOU. “Every one of us shall give account of himself to God” (*Romans 14:12*). You have been entrusted with the Gospel. How far are you responsible for sending the Water of Life to earth’s famishing millions? In the light of God’s Word, are we not justified in saying that you are responsible (at least) to the extent of your tithe? Have you paid yours? If not, then

YOUR UNPAID TITHE IS HELPING
TO CLOG THE STREAM OF SALVA-
TION.

“Lord, is it I?”

“Woe is me if I send not the Gospel!”

Thos. Kane in speaking of tithing says: “It transfers from you to your Heavenly Father the responsibility of how much it shall be; and thus gives us peace of mind in having a question of duty settled.”

One more solemn truth:

“TO PRAY
THY KINGDOM COME
AND NOT PAY—
IS MOCKERY.”

Susan Anderson, one of our greatest present day missionaries to Africa, closed an address with

this statement: "Many times people say to me 'we are praying for you and your work in Africa'; but if you are doing nothing but praying and are not paying (as you are able) then you need not bother to pray for me for your prayers get no higher than your head."

A hard saying? Yes,—but a greater than Susan Anderson said, "Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the Kingdom of Heaven but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in Heaven" (*Matt. 7:21*). "With their mouth they show much love, but their heart goeth after their covetousness" (*Ezekiel 33:31*).

About two-thirds of the world's people wait for the Water of Life. Christ looks and yearns and waits for His followers to obey.

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and
STEWARDSHIP WAITS ON YOU.



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