

29. "Three times in a year shall all thy males appear before the Lord thy God... and they shall not appear before the Lord empty. Every man shall give as he is able, according to the blessing of the Lord thy God which He hath given thee."—Deut. xvi. 16, 17.

Q. What did Abraham give, and what did Jacob vow to give when starting in life?

A. Abraham gave him (Melchizedek, king of Salem and priest of the Most High God) tithes of all the goods recovered from the king of Sodom and his allies.—Gen. xiv. 20. Jacob said, "Of all that thou shalt give me, I will surely give the tenth unto thee."—Gen. xxviii. 22.

Q. By what means did Israel, an agricultural and pastoral people, with a limited coinage, bring large offerings to God?

A. First-fruits—Exod. xxiii. 19. The two tithes of increase—Num. xviii. 21-24, and Deut. xiv. 22-29. The male firstlings of cattle.—Deut. xv. 19.

Q. What amount of their substance did the Jews devote?

A. The following texts show that they gave more than one-fifth of their annual income:—Numb. xviii. 24; Deut. xiv. 22, 29; Exod. xviii. 1-2; xxiii. 19; Lev. v. 2, 10; xiii. 6-8; xiv. 22-30; and xix. 5, 9, 10.

Q. When was it to be devoted?

A. At the time it came to hand—Exod. xxiii. 19; Num. xviii. 24-29; Deut. xv. 19.

Q. Does the New Testament contain any rule on this subject.

A. "Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him."—1 Cor. xvi. 2.

Q. Who are the persons to give?

A. Every one of you.

Q. What mode is to be adapted?

A. "Lay by in store." Provide a treasury for the Lord.

Q. What is each one to give?

A. "As God hath prospered him." According to the benefits received. The poor man is not to withhold his penny because it is only a penny; the rich is to give of his greater substance.

Q. When is the offering to be made?

A. "On the first day of the week." The day set apart by the sovereign Lord of all for His own special worship.

Q. Where is the habit of WEEKLY STORING for religious and benevolent purposes taught?

A. In 1 Cor. xvi. 1-4, continued through 2 Cor. viii. and ix.

NOTE.—The apostle Paul urges this practice at length on the Corinthians, through the example of Macedonian believers, on many most affecting grounds. He did not expect them to fulfill their sacred obligations but by applying this storing process. Its weekly applications, or "Weekly Giving," where social arrangements allow, proves highly beneficial. It is being extensively adopted in different degrees. Its success, however, is greatly promoted by the "Storing practice."

Q. What *Economical* benefits would attend the practice of *Weekly Storing*, if fully practised?

A. More persons would give; many would give more; it would prove more convenient; prevent needless expenditure; secure larger funds; oppose worldly scheming; and make an ample provision for all the requirements of God's service.

Q. What are the *Moral* advantages of the plan?

A. It secures decision of judgment and action; ease of conscience; justice to all; personal and social freedom; and mutual esteem and confidence.

Q. What *Spiritual* benefits result from its practice?

A. It promotes dependance upon God; gratitude for Divine bounty; compassionate provision for human wants; devout liberality; and growing likeness to the glorified Saviour; besides securing the divine blessing on all our interests.

Q. On what principle does God require of us a due portion of our income?

A. "The silver is mine, and the gold is mine, saith the Lord of Hosts."—Hag. ii. 8. "For all things come of Thee, and of Thine own have we given thee."—1 Chron. xxix. 14. "Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed Thee? In tithes and offerings."—Mal. iii. 8.

Q. What is needful to make man's offering pleasing to God?

A. "For if there be first a willing mind, it is accepted according to that a man hath, and not according to that he hath not."—2 Cor. viii. 12. "God loveth a cheerful giver."—2 Cor. ix. 7. "Whether therefore ye eat or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God."—1 Cor. x. 31.

Q. What consideration should influence to Christian self-denial?

A. "If any man will come after me, let him deny himself."—Matt. xxvi. 24. "Ye are not your own, for ye are bought with a price."—1 Cor. vi. 19, 20.

(To be continued.)