

God has one law of right for saint and sinner. Our obligations are divine. God blessed the heathens who dealt kindly by Israel. Giving results in good to the donor.

Does one say, "Suppose I am in debt?"

This cannot be a valid objection. You find that many men have attained wealth by going in debt. God's claim comes first; that is the first debt. We are to honor Him with the first-fruits; the tenth should be put aside first. Men might escape God's claims altogether by keeping in debt. For instance, a man buys a farm, house, or other property, and can only pay half, can he justly say, I will give nothing to the cause of God till the balance is paid? Certainly not. In the light of Scripture let us ask why many are in debt. Read prayerfully Haggai i. 5: "Thus saith the Lord, consider your ways. Ye have sown much and bring in little. . . . and he that earneth wages, earneth wages to put it into a bag with holes." Again we read: "There is that withholdeth more than is meet, but it tendeth to poverty."

The Israelites thought they could not afford to pay what God exacted, and so for many years omitted doing so. Did it pay them? Hear what God said: "Ye are cursed with a curse: for ye have robbed Me, even this whole nation." Mal. iii. 9.

The Lord directed Israel to let the land rest every seventh year. They thought this would not pay, and so ignored God's direction. How did they fare? Read Lev. xxvi. 33, 35: "I will scatter you among the heathen, . . . and your land shall be desolate. . . . Then shall the land rest and enjoy her