

spiritual Israel, if this be so should we not walk in his steps who gave tithes so freely? The Lord Himself made this regulation, therefore it must be right as He is too wise to err, and He made it for the benefit of man. He does not require our pittance for His own benefit, for the world and its fullness are His; by the mouth of the prophet He says, "If I were hungry I would not tell thee."

But our giving and his receiving forms a link between God and man, it is for our good, just as the Sabbath was made for man and not man for the Sabbath, and it was to be a sign between man and his Maker, as the rainbow was for a sign that the world would no more be destroyed by water. But I will give the substance of "An Appeal" made to a church of which I was then a member, since as the Pastor said "It was so Scriptural" which is the best recommendation it could have, and may be helpful.

AN APPEAL.

Dear Companions in the Kingdom and Patience of Jesus.

My mind has been painfully exercised concerning the debt on our church and the difficulty of raising sufficient money to meet the expenses thereof, this led me to ask the Lord what we should do about it (as you know we are told, If any man lack wisdom let him ask of God who giveth "LIBERALLY" and upbraideth not and it "shall" be given). Immediately God's words to His ancient people presented itself. "Bring in 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." Was not this a challenge as well as a promise? and will the Lord be less gracious to His people in this day? or does His cause require less to maintain it in the earth? Verily, no, for there are many more open doors now, and the command has been given "Go ye into all the world." This Scripture seemed so clear and positive and has proved so true in my own experience and that of many others, that I felt as if I could pledge myself for its fulfilment if we would only do our part, and was led to exclaim, "Who will trust God, who will believe and obey, and boldly step out on the promise."

Then I considered the circumstances of many of our people, some out of work, others making very little; but may not this state of things, in some measure, rise out of the neglect of God's appointed rule, in withholding the tenth, or tithe? He calls it robbing Him, and for this cause said, "Ye are cursed with a curse." Again, "Ye looked for much, and it came to little; and when ye brought it home, I did blow upon it; and ye earned wages to put it in bags with holes."

It is evident the Apostle applied Old Testament rules to New Testament times, saying, "It is written, Thou shalt not muzzle the mouth of the ox that treadeth out the corn." It was allowed to help itself freely while laboring for them. And then he asks, "Doth God take care for oxen, or saith He it altogether for our sakes?" For our sakes, no doubt, this is written: that he that ploweth should plow on hope, and that he that thresheth in hope should be partaker of his hope. In other words, they that labour for our spiritual welfare should share generously in our temporal things, seeing they give their life, time and strength to this work.