

President—Why should we give a fixed proportion of our income?

Members—Because it is God's command. If we as Christians were proof against temptations to pride, self-indulgence and worldliness, such a law might not be needful, but "He knew what was in man," "and He said unto them, Take heed, and beware of covetousness." "His commandments are not grievous," "and in keeping of them there is great reward."

President—What are some of the "rewards" of Proportionate Giving?

Members—As well as promoting our temporal and spiritual welfare, "it gives rest of heart in having the question of duty settled. It transfers to our heavenly Father the responsibility of how much we shall give, and allows him to decide whether it shall be little or much, as he prospers us." "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.)

President—What proportion of our income should we give?

Members—Not less than one-tenth, for God claims that to be his. "And all the tithes 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. And . . . of the herd or of the flock . . . the tenth shall be holy unto the Lord. . . . These are the commandments which the Lord commanded." (Lev. xxvii. 30, 32, 34.)

President—Is a tenth always the full measure of our indebtedness?

Members—While no lower basis of giving should be adopted by any Christian, special blessings, whether temporal or spiritual, demand special recognition, and surely the abundant blessings that come to us through the gift of Jesus must prompt our hearts to lay at the feet of our Saviour loving free-will offerings for the furtherance of his great redemptive work. "He gave himself for us." "Unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall be much required." "Freely ye have received, freely give."

President—For what purpose was the tithe used?

Members—The Scriptures afford us little or no information as to the use made of the tithe in early history, but when the church was organized in the tabernacle and temple service, it was by God's direction utilized in its maintenance. "And 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. (Num. xviii. 21.) Also, under certain circumstances, it was to be given to the poor—"Thou shalt bring forth . . . the tithe of thine increase, . . . and the stranger, and the fatherless, and the widow which are within thy gates shall come and shall eat and be satisfied; that the Lord thy God may bless thee in all the work of thy hand which thou doest." (Deut. xiv. 28, 29.)

President—Are we, then, to understand that giving of the tenth secures God's blessing on our temporal undertakings?

Members—According to the teaching of His word, that is the *only condition* on which we have any right to expect God's blessing on our secular undertakings. "Honor the Lord with thy substance and with the first-fruits of all thine increase,