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Gen 1:1 ✓

Tithing -

Heaven's Fixed Law

When the Lord made this universe he made it a harmonious home every part of it was what it was intended to be, and functioned as God had meant. And when God created the universe he instituted laws by which this universe was to be governed. And to me one of the most conclusive truths that there is a God and that this God made the heavens and the earth, is the fact that this universe runs according to somebody's schedule. And every law that governs this universe is an expression of the mind of God and it seems to work properly, for instance the sun nearly always rises in the east. I can't think of a time when it didn't rise in the east. And normally it sets in the west. It never has risen out of the South and set in the North, it doesn't rise in the west and set in the east. But every day, it just seems to on schedule, rise in the

east, and have you ever noticed that at noon it is right overhead? It's

never right over head at 4:00 o'clock or 9:00 o'clock, it seems to be

right overhead at noon, just like it was a train traveling on a track

and could not deviate from it ~~xxxx~~ unless some

just stands up and tells it to stop and then it'll do it. But every

minute detail in the way this universe and all of its galaxies seem

to operate - operate by the divine laws of God. ³ Now when God instituted

the laws that would govern the universe He also made some of these laws

automatic - they would work permanently, eternally. In other words, God

doesn't say every day, "All right, Sun, rise" and then He doesn't tell it

when to set, it operates automatically. In other words this is a fixed

law. We call these fixed laws - for example the law of gravity is a

law that works automatically. It is a fixed law. Isaac Newton discovered

the law of gravity, he did not invent it. He didn't write it - he discovered

it --- it was there all the time. And it works all the time. The law of

*Oh my, law of gravity won't
hold down is prices*

sowing and reaping is a fixed law its in operation allthe time. Now, these
fixed laws that God has insitituted when they are observed by man they are
kind to him. But if man ignores these fixed laws and violates them then
this laws retaliate and take their toll in a number of ways. For instance,
the law of gravity - Now you don't have to prove to me that there is a
law of gravity. And it is a good law. It is beneficial to man. I am glad
there is a law of gravity, otherwise I would be standing on the ceiling
this morning and I would have to hold down my watch and I would have to
hold down my book and you would have to hold down your book and your purse.
The law of gravity is a good law, when it is observed and obeyed. But, if
you ignore the law of gravity and do like one man I heard do it is going
to retaliate. Two drunk men were on the 14th floor of a hotel (room)?,
and they had had just enough to you know make life seemingly wonderful
and feeling very self-sufficient, and one man announced, "I am going to fly".

And so he walked over and threw up the window and said, "I am going to go out there and fly like a bird". So he perched on the window sill and jumped off and started flapping his arms. Well, a few days later his friend visited him in the hospital and there he was laying up there in that bed with both legs in a cast and both arms in a cast, and the cast over his head with holes so he could see through the little holes, and a hole he could talk through. His friend came in and asked him how he was. And he said, "what in the world did you mean?" "why did you let me jump out of that window?" "I told you I was going to fly --- why did you let me do it?" And his friend said, "well, I thought you could do it." If I ignore the law of gravity it's going to take it's toll in me - it's going to retaliate. Also, in sowing and reaping - if a farmer ignores the law of sowing and reaping and says "I am going to sow when I want to," and ~~sows~~ and sows in the wrong season, there will be no reaping. There will be no harvest - there will be no crop. These are fixed laws. And remember this, when

they are obeyed and observed by man they are kind to him and beneficial and a blessing but when they are ignored, violated, trespassed against, then they retaliate and take their toll in destruction and other ways.

(5)

Now, when God made the heavens and the earth, He also made ample provision

for everything that he made. As I read the book of Genesis and the account

of God's creation several things just strike me -- have you ever noticed

that before God make the fish, He made the water? Now, he didn't make the

fish first and say, "Let's see, where are we going to put them?" XX The

fish didn't have to flop around on the dry ground while God made the water ---

He made the water first, then He made the fish. Provision - God made the

land, and the ~~herbs~~ herbs and the fruit of the trees, and the grass

before He made the animals. And so an animal didn't have to go hungry for

an hour - or for a minute. Before they were made, God had already made

ample provision for them. And, have you ever noticed that before God

made man, he made the air, the atmosphere -- He didn't make Adam and say

All right, hold your breath." ~~XXXXXXXX~~ And have you ever noticed

that God made the Garden of Eden, then placed man in it - he did not

place Adam in a barren wilderness and then build a garden around him.

No, Adam did not have to go for one minute without something to eat,

without a nice place to live. Ample provision was made. The Bible

says that God opens His hand and satisfies the desire of every living

creature. And it is a most amazing thing to me how God made everything

so it works just properly. For instances, have you ever noticed how

a sparrow eats, or how a robin eats --- ~~have~~ have you ever watched a

robin eat? A robin seems to favor worms. And a robin is a large bird

and he doesn't move as fast as a sparrow. And you watch a robin, come

this spring, and watch him as he gets his dinner. He'll walk around

and he'll cock his head. For he has got a built in radar there and through

the vibrations he can tell where a worm is hidden beneath the soil. And you

watch him, he'll walk a little bit and then he'll cock his head this way,

then that way, then that radar beams in upon where a worm is or some

other insect, and he goes right to it. I want you to notice something.

When that robineats, he always lifts his head first and says the blessing.

And then he eats. You watch him. Before the robin eats, he lifts his

head, and then he goes to eat. Now its a very slow process. What if God

had made the sparrow to like worms? Robins would starve to death, because

there are many more sparrows than there are robins, and they are faster.

And if there were in competition with the robins, the poor robins would

starve to death before he ever~~y~~ got moving. But God made the sparrow

to like insects, flies, straw and bread crumbs and everything else. God

opens his hand and ~~xxx~~ satisfies the desire of every living creature.

God made ample provision for everything He created. And did you know

that the Bible says that the Lamb of God, Jesus Christ, was slain before

the foundation of the world? And that God made provision of salvation

even before man ever sinned. And before God ever placed man in the

Garden of Eden, already in the mind of God the sacrifice of Jesus Christ

was a reality. And so, God amply provides for everything he ~~X~~ has created.

6 And this universe is in sympathetic relation to its Creator. It sympathizes,

it knows, it responds to the touch of its Creator. Only man is vile of all

God's creations and only he fails to respond to God's touch. You remember

when Jesus was going into the holy city of Jerusalem, riding upon the

donkey and the people begin to shout Hosanna, and praise Him, and some

people told them to keep silent, and Jesus said, "No, let them speak, for

if they hold their peace, the very stone would cry out." In other words,

those stones recognized who Jesus was, and if the people didn't tell it

the stones would cry out. And when Jesus Christ, the Lord of creation, died

upon the cross, what happened? The earth went into convulsions, and the

sun hid its face, and the sky grew black, and earth vomited up its dead

as the graves were opened. Because it knew that its Maker had died, and it

was in sympathy with its Maker. And so it always responds to the touch

of God. So when a storm arose, the Lord could tell the storm, "Peace, be

still." And the waves subsided and became calm. Because this earth is in sympathetic relation to its Creator. Now this earth, since God made it, and since God instituted the laws ~~g~~ that govern it, and since it is in sympathetic relationship with its Maker, this earth belongs to

the Lord. The Bible says that "the earth is the Lord's and the fullness

thereof." God is ^a ~~XXX~~ banker, for He says, ~~X~~ all the silver and gold is

mine. God is a rancher for He says the cattle on a thousand hills belong

to me. God is a land-owner, for the earth is the Lords and the fullness

thereof. He ~~XXXX~~ just lets us live on it, He is very gracious to let us

use His property, and to breathe His air, and to eat His food and to make

houses out of His trees. 8 For you see when God placed Adam in the Garden

of Eden, He didn't give him that garden, did He? He didn't give Him that

garden, it wasn't his. God said here, Adam, here is the place where you

are going to live. Here is the garden. Here are the trees. Your job is

to till it, to dress it, you are a farmer, you are an agricultural man. This

is where you are going to make your living. This is where you are going

to obtain your livelihood, and you can eat of every tree in this garden

except one. God did not give the garden to Adam and to remind Adam ~~that~~

that God was the sovereign owner of him and this universe, God said,

the tree in the midst of the garden, the ~~the~~ tree of the knowledge of

good and evil, you will not touch, for in the day that you touch it,

you will die. And there was no reason for Adam to touch that tree

because God had made ample provision for Adam without it. Now do you

know what God did? God reserved for Himself something in the physical

realm where Adam obtained his living. ~~XXXXXXXX~~ Adam made his living out

of that garden and in that area of life, God reserved for Himself a portion.

God said that is mine and do not touch it, it is a symbol of my sovereign

ownership, and there was no reason for Adam to touch it. God always reserves

something for Himself in the physical realm where we obtain our livelihood.

With Adam it was a tree, with me it is a tithe. God always keeps something

for Himself in the physical realm where we make our living. And just as

that tree in the middle of the garden was a symbol of God's sovereign

ownership, so is the tithe a symbol of God's sovereign ownership over me.

And just as there was no reason under the sun for Adam to touch that tree

which belonged to God, so there is no reason for me to touch that tithe

which belongs to the Lord for He has made ample provision without it. So

the tithe is this - a ~~RECOGNITION~~ recognition of God's sovereign ownership~~X~~.

When Abraham went out to fight the war against the kings and after he had

come back victorious carrying the spoils of war, the mighty treasures of

those kings, he met the high priest of God, Melchizedek and Melchizadek

greet him with these words, "Blessed thou servant of the most high God,

possessor of heaven and earth." And the Bible says that Abraham paid him

tithes of all. Now, I want you to notice this. We say that we want you

to tithe so that we can support the work of the church. That is true,

but that is not the primary meaning of the tithe. Because when Abraham

tithed there was no work of God~~E~~ to support. There was no preacher, there

there wasn't any,
were no church buildings, there were no missionaries, ~~XXXXXX~~ contrary to

what you may think, there was no such thing as the Cooperative Program, when

Abraham lived. There was no religious work of finance. But he gave a tithe,

he tithed everything he had. Why? Well, ^{when} he heard Melchizadek say that

God was the possessor of heaven of earth he gave him tithes of all . God

owns this and He merely lets us live here. Therefore the owner of the

property has the right to set the terms by which we will live on his

property. Some of you live in some apartments- Seven Seas Apartments,

Viking Apartments, and some other apartments. When you signed the

contract and signed the lease, did you tell the manager, well listen

I don't want to make any committment about what I am going to pay, I'll

just give you what I can, when it is convenient. No, you didn't do that ---

that owner says, "This is how much you will pay". He has a right to tell

you what to pay because he is the owner and he is letting you live there.

And the Bible says "the earth ~~is~~ is the Lord's and the fullness thereof."

do you believe that? All right then God has a perfect right to make the

terms on which we enjoy his substance and his life. So there was no

work of finance, it was a recognition of God's sovereignty, His

ownership - and another thing, there was no law back then. Every once in

awhile someone says, "the tithe, well, that's under the law". No it's

not - it is before the law. And it would be senseless for me to stand

up here this morning and try to prove to you that the tithe was taught

in the New Testament or because the Law was passed away there was no

more tithe - that is beside the point. The law has nothing to do with the

tithe. Abraham tithed before Moses was ever born. There was no law.

The law had not been given. Jacob said I will give thee a tenth of all

that I possess. There was no law when Jacob did that. And so it is

useless for us to try to ease our consciences and to make ourselves com-

fortable by saying, that is the law, that is under the law. No it's not,

its before the law. And, it is not a matter of religious conviction, actually

Tithing is not a matter of religious conviction. It is a matter of recognizing the very foundation of life that God is the Creator and I am the creature.

So, God always reserves for Himself something in the physical realm. When

⑨ God made the time, He made the seasons, He made the days - He made seven

Sabbath

days: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday, Sunday. So

what did He say, "Six days shalt thou labor the seventh day is holy unto

the Lord." Now the word holy does not mean sinless perfection - it means

set apart, consecrated, dedicated, cut off from everything else. So when

God said the Sabbath day is holy He said the Sabbath day is set apart, it

is dedicated to me, it is my day and by that day God was teaching us that He

was the sovereign owner of time. So when I acknowledge the Lord's Day and I

give that day to Him, I am acknowledging that God is the sovereign owner

of my time. When God led the people of Israel into Canaan, He said, "every

⑩ city is yours go in and possess the land, take the spoil, take the treasure,

except one city. ~~One city is mine~~ One city is mine, do not touch the city of

Jericho. Don't take any spoil, don't plunder it, that city is mine." What

was God doing? He was teaching the sovereign ownership of God. Every city in Canaan is yours, except one. God always reserves something for himself, something in the physical realm. And when Achan violated this fixed law and took what belonged to God, what happened? The law retaliated. It is a fixed law, it automatically retaliated. And Israel become powerless and defeated. So God taught it with a day, he taught it with a city, and

Tithe

He taught it with a tithe in Leviticus chapter 27:30. The tithe was as

old as Abraham, and when Moses came ~~XXXXXX~~ they merely incorporated the

tithe into that law, it was before the law. Listen to verse 30, 27th chapter

of Leviticus. 27:30 . It is to be set apart unto the Lord. Now there

are only two things really of importance in that verse. There is the land

and there is the Lord. These two things give us the origin of the tithing

principle. As long as there is the land and as long as there is the Lord,

tithing will be in force. The only way that you can do away with the tithe

is to do away with the Lord and the land. The Lord is owner of the land

and I live on the land, therefore comes the tithe, and the tithe is holy unto the Lord. So with a day, with a tree, with a city, with a tithe,

God is teaching His people, I am owner of everything, recognize it.

Land
And then God taught it with the land - with a year. When He gave the

land to the people He said, "Six years you will till the land on the

seventh year you don't touch that land, you don't sow crops on the

sevent year - let the land rest on the seventh year. Six years are

God was teaching the sovereign ownership of land.
yours, one year is mine." / Now God knew what He was doing because you

see they were bothered by plagues in those days and these plagues were

perpetuated by larvae. And these larvae lived and worked in seven year

cycles. So if they did not work the land the seventh year, if they let

the land rest the seventh year, the larvae would be destroyed and there

would be no plague. And did you know that when God lays down a moral

law it is always beneficial in the physical realm. And if they would

have obeyed the law of God it would have made them better farmers and

it would have blessed them. He said every seventh year is my year, let

the land rest, don't touch it. But did they do it? No. They didn't do

it. For 490 years they toiled, tilled, sowed, cultivated the land. 490

years they did not give God His year. All right, you figure up, now

every seventh year belongs to God, in 490 years how many years would

Israel owe God? 70. 70×70 is 490. How many years did God leave the

the people of Israel in Babylonian captivity? 70 years. And when the

people of Israel were led into captivity there is a little verse that

says, "then the land hath her rest". You see, tithing can either be

voluntary or compulsory. God collected one way or another. And they

would not voluntarily let the land rest so God enforced it upon them.

So you see tithing actually has nothing to do with my religious conviction.

And it has nothing to do with the law of God. And basically it has nothing

to do with whether or not there is a work to finance. It has to do with,

do I believe and acknowledge that God is the sovereign owner of everything.

kz 18

Have you ever prayed for God to meet your needs? Phil. 4:19 -

All of your needs - not a few of them. Matthew 6:33. God says if

you put me first I will take care of everything else. I will supply

your needs, your food, your raiment. I will supply all of your needs.

All right, I have done this. I have asked God to supply all of my

needs. There have been times when I have been in financial straits -

I mean I was straightened - more than ever before, there wasn't a ~~kink~~ kink

in me I was so straight, and I have gone to God and I have asked Him, "Lord,

meet this obligation, I just need help." And God has done it, God has

answered my prayer. And all of you could stand up this morning and say

God has answered my prayer, provided for me in one way or another. All right,

then, now, listen. Does God have a right to supply your needs. Does God have

a right to take the wealth, the substances, the material things of the world

and distribute them to those who ask for it? Does He have the right to do it?

Yes, He has the right to do it. Why? Because He is the owner. "The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof". He owns everything, therefore He has the right to do it. If God did not own everything He would not have the right to take from this source and give to this source. So, if I do not tithe I have no right to go to God in prayer and say, "Lord, meet my needs". Because I am asking God to do something in prayer that I am denying He has the right to do in practice. For by my life, by my practice, I am denying that God has a right, I am denying that God is the sovereign owner of all things. And, therefore, it would be hypocritical for me to come and say, "Lord, supply my needs". Because I would be asking God to do something in prayer that I deny He has a right to do in practice and God does not answer that kind of prayer. So you see, the tithe is the very foundation of human ~~zizzzz~~ life. And if I do not tithe I deny so many things about God. God puts that money into my hands and He makes provision for me, but He says, Remember part of that is mine, a tenth is holy unto the Lord. And Malachi 3:10 where the Bible says "You have robbed me in tithes

and offerings and they say, "How do we rob God?" "Where have we robbed you?"

And God says you have robbed me in your tithes and offerings. Now the word

robbery there, Z in the Hebrew, has the meaning of embezzlement. Do you

know the difference between robbery and embezzlement? Now I don't work

over here at the Super International Store -- I have got quite a bit invested

over there, but I don't work there, I don't have any right to go behind

that counter and open up that cash register and touch any of that money ---

I have no right to do it. But, if I went over there and found that the girl

behind the desk was gone and I reached over there and opened that cash register

and took money out of that I would be committing robbery. W Taking money that

I had no right to touch. But, now let's suppose that I take the money

that is given to the church, which I have the right to handle, as pastor, and

let's say I go over here, and last Sunday morning I took one of the offering

plates, really I took one of the offering plates and carried it over to the

office for the men to count. And, I had a right to do that. I have a right

to touch it, but not to keep it. And so what if I take that offering which

you have given and I begin to count it and I say, "one for the church and

You better,

one for me". I listen carefully when I hear those fellows counting-- I

don't want to hear that kind of counting. I say one for the church and

take a little bit for the church. I would not be committing robbery, I

would be committing embezzlement. ~~XXXXXXXX~~ Because I have a right to

handle that money I would be taking money I have a right to handle. And in

Malachi 3:10 - and God says we have robbed Him, the word~~X~~ means we have

embezzled from him. It means I have a right to handle this money, but not

to keep it. So no to tithe is to embezzle from God. It is to destroy the

very foundation of human life. For when I do not tithe I declare my

independence from God because the tithe says I am dependent upon God

for my needs. When I do not tithe I rebel against the doctrine of faith.

For I say that I believe this money has more power to meet my needs than

God Almighty has. I deny God's sovereign ownership for in practice I say,

X "God, you may have made this earth, but it is mine now, you have no

say so in it." I deny that this earth is in sympathetic relation to its

Creator when I say I can do with it what I want and there will be no

reaction and retaliation. You see, I deny the very foundation of human

existence. The tithe is fundamental to life. It is not a matter of

any religious conviction, it is not a matter of New Testament, Old Testament,

it is not a matter of financing a missionary, it is not a matter of the

law, it is a matter: do I acknowledge that God is the owner of my life.

Do you? This is a fixed law. It has always been in force. It will

always be in force. And it is a law that when it is obeyed and observed

it is kind to man and blesses man. When it is ignored and violated it

reacts and retaliates for/^{as}with the land of the people of Israel God gets

the tithe either voluntary or compulsory. Do you believe that God created

the heavenes and the earth -- do you believe that this earth is in sympathetic

relation to him? Do you believe that earth is the Lord's and the fullness

thereof? Do you believe that God is really the owner and that you are

merely the creature? Then God has a right to set the terms by which we

live on this earth. Would you bow