

# Why You Have Financial Worries—God's Financial Law

**You may be under a CURSE! Here are facts you probably didn't know about your income!**

**by Herbert W. Armstrong**

**F**INANCIAL worries seem to plague us all! IT JUST DOESN'T MAKE SENSE!

When you stop to think about it, never in the history of this world were any nations so rich as the English-speaking and the western European nations today! Our peoples possess more developed resources and national wealth than any people ever had before.

Yet nearly every one of us is engaged in a constant STRUGGLE to make ends meet. Financial worries seem constantly to bear us down—rob us of real happiness and joy! WHY SHOULD THIS BE?

There is a reason! YOU CAN BE FREE from financial worry!

## What Most People Don't Know

Let me tell you something you probably *don't know* about your income. If there is anything people are jealous of, it is the money they earn. They usually work hard for it. And they want full freedom in deciding for themselves what they do with it.

People say: "What I earn is MINE—I can do what I please with it!" But is the money you earn really *your own*? Don't be too sure. Listen to FACTS about your income you probably haven't known!

What you earn is *not yours*!

The man who says, "What I do with the money I earn is nobody's business!—I produced it—it belongs to me," is mistaken.

What you earn by work performed, by services rendered, from investments made, is *not yours*—not any of it—that is, not UNTIL!—and I will have to explain that "until."

There are two prior claims on your income. One, of course, is taxes.

But the *first* is GOD'S claim. You probably never realized this fact before—but it is a fact. God Almighty the living CREATOR-RULER of the universe *claims it all*—every dollar—every pound—every franc—every mark. Your Maker who gives you the very air you breathe tells you it *all* belongs to Him, not to you!

But didn't you *earn* it? Didn't YOU produce it?

Not exactly! Everything produced—

money, and the things that money can buy—comes out of the earth. You didn't produce the earth! GOD created *that*! You merely applied certain energy in thinking and in physical action to that which GOD created and owned. And where did the ENERGY you expended come from? YOU didn't create or supply it—you merely UTILIZED what GOD created and supplied. God created even your thinking processes.

God Almighty created not only MATTER, but all force and energy. God set them in *motion*, in the laws of physics and chemistry—He created the human mind; He supplies even the ENERGY used in thinking and acting. Yes, ALL has come from GOD! It is God who SUSTAINS, preserves in motion, guides and directs, all the forces and energies. God is not merely a creator of the long ago! God is the sustaining, directing, living RULER over all, TODAY! It's a simple FACT that, after all, it was GOD'S LABOR of original thinking and planning and creating, and of continuous sustaining and directing, that REALLY produces all.

Therefore GOD'S CLAIM to ownership of all you have THOUGHT you produced or earned is VALID. It is PRIOR to yours!

God Almighty says (Psalm 24:1-2): "The earth is The ETERNAL'S, and the fulness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein." These inspired words are repeated in the New Testament in I Corinthians 10:26.

God Almighty OWNS this earth and everything that exists or lives upon it! "Whatsoever is under the whole heaven is mine," claims God in Job 41:11.

Turn to Deut. 10:14: "Behold, the heaven and the heaven of heavens is the ETERNAL'S thy God, the earth also, and all that therein is." And in Ex. 19:5, God says: "All the earth is MINE."

"If I were hungry," says God (Ps. 50:12), "I would not tell thee: for the world is MINE, and the fulness thereof." "For every beast of the forest is MINE, and the cattle upon a thousand hills" (verse 10).

Yes, even the money—even the gold and silver: "The silver is MINE, and the gold is MINE, saith the ETERNAL of hosts" (Hag. 2:8).

DARE any man deny this claim of

God? God's claim STANDS! Admit, then, *your* income BELONGS TO GOD! It's HIS to do with as HE wills.

## How God's Law Regulates It

But God is a God of love. He *knows* your need. God is concerned about you. He has your interest and welfare in mind. Therefore God has made A LAW respecting that portion of HIS WEALTH which *your* thinking, and *your* labor has extracted and worked upon.

Get this fixed thoroughly in your mind. Your wages, your salary, your profit, your income BELONGS TO GOD, not to you. Probably you never realized this before. This may seem like a new idea to you. But it is *not* an idea—it is a fact!

So God, the rightful OWNER of your income, has MADE A LAW respecting its disposal and its use.

God's LAW respecting what you earn is in fact a DEAL. He has made with you. He allows you to work on HIS EARTH, to use a part of the earth, or what is in it, or on it, to utilize its forces and energies, and to extract from it food, materials, supplies, wood, metals, oils, coal,—or to work on or with that which others have extracted from the earth, in manufacturing, distributing, buying, selling, investing—whatever may be your occupation or job or profession—and so, whether you have realized it or not YOU HAVE BEEN WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP WITH GOD.

The farmer or gardener may plant seed, plow, and expend his labor in raising food. But WHO supplied the SOIL? WHO created the living process that makes the seed sprout and grow? Who sends the rain, or provides water for irrigation? Who set the sun in the sky and causes it to shine and warm the earth? Who causes the plant to drink out of the soil the minerals, vitamins, and good elements, and to grow into the vegetable, the grain, or the fruit? Did YOU perform this part of the business of raising the food you eat?

I think when we sit down and really THINK, we shall see that God supplies about NINE parts of everything man makes or produces, and man's thinking, planning, and working supplies only

about ONE part. But God does not take nine-tenths of the proceeds, or the income. He doesn't take even eight-tenths, or seven, or even three or two tenths. God is GENEROUS. God has reserved for HIS use only *one* little tiny tenth of what is produced out of His earth thru His forces and energies!

God takes only ONE tenth. And *after* you have been honest in PAYING God's tenth to God's chosen representative, then—AND NOT UNTIL THEN—God has decreed that the other NINE tenths becomes legally YOURS!

#### THAT'S GOD'S LAW!

Not a penny of what you earn, or a penny's worth of the value of what you produce, is YOURS—it ALL belongs to God to do with as HE directs. God has legally directed that after you have honestly paid Him the one little tenth He requires for His work, then the other NINE tenths He gives to you. Then, and not until then can you rightfully claim OWNERSHIP over that nine tenths.

When we get our thinking straight—when we get UNDERSTANDING—when we stop to realize HOW MUCH of what we have was *provided by* GOD—then we realize how LOVING, how GENEROUS, how solicitous for our welfare God is.

#### The CURSES and BLESSINGS

But that's only *part* of the story.

What does God want with that first TENTH? How does He use it? He requires that *small fraction* of what is produced out of HIS earth for the purpose of disseminating to the people HIS MESSAGE of THE WAY OF LIFE that will free them from fears and worries, give them peace of mind and happiness, give them joy and success and LIFE ETERNAL!

Yes, even this tenth which God withholds for His use is expended for HUMAN GOOD! For proclaiming His GOSPEL of Peace, and happiness and joy and salvation! For letting people know God will heal them when they are sick—that God will deliver them from every trouble—supply their every need! Give them Eternal Life!

THIS UNHAPPY WORLD IS STARVING FOR THAT KNOWLEDGE! THIS WORLD IS UNDER A CURSE because it has *robbed God* of His money and His wealth, and thereby withheld *from itself* the knowledge of WHY it is in chaos—WHY it is at war—WHY there is no real *peace*—WHY it finds life empty and fruitless, full of suffering and unhappiness, frustration and death!

All of God's laws are for MAN'S GOOD!

Obedience to God's laws brings BLESSINGS! When we violate His laws, we bring CURSES upon ourselves!

Even the true Christians—the Spirit-begotten sons of GOD—need to cry out

to God for HELP, for DELIVERANCE. In this world today, even those who TURN to the ways of God suffer from the common violations of mankind as a whole. But there IS help. There IS deliverance! In Psalm 34:19 we read: "MANY are the afflictions of the righteous: but the ETERNAL delivereth him out of them all." And in the 18th verse we read: "The ETERNAL is nigh unto them that are of a broken heart; and saveth such as be of a contrite spirit."

If we want that prayer answered—if we want the BLESSINGS of God, and not the curses of transgression—THE WAY is to FORSAKE *our* ways, and *our* thoughts, and return to GOD'S ways.

#### How to Have More

Throughout the Scriptures, both Old and New, God makes it A LAW that the first tenth of every individual's income shall be paid to GOD thru His own called and chosen ministers—for the purpose of PROCLAIMING HIS GOSPEL MESSAGE!

That LAW has always been in force and effect, and we find Abraham, 400 years before Moses, paying the TITHE, or the first TENTH of his income to God's High Priest. Four hundred years later, when the LEVITICAL priesthood started under the Law of Moses and the Old Covenant, we find THE TITHING LAW continued thruout that dispensation, too. During that period God commanded the people to pay the tithes to God's ministers for that dispensation—the Levites.

And in Hebrews 7 in the NEW Testament, God shows us that, since the priesthood is changed to that of JESUS CHRIST, there is also made a CHANGE in the law respecting tithes—not an *abolition* of that law, but a CHANGE, so that tithes are now paid to the ministry of Jesus Christ for the GREAT COMMISSION of proclaiming HIS GOSPEL—the very Gospel CHRIST preached—to the WORLD TODAY! In I Cor. 9 the Apostle Paul is inspired of God to instruct us that God has ORDAINED that the NEW Testament GOSPEL ministry of Christ shall be financed exactly as the Levitical priesthood of the Old covenant—by the TITHES and free-will offerings of the people. More of the Scripture teaching and LAW of tithing at a later time.

GOD'S OWN FINANCING SYSTEM is making possible this very WORK OF GOD in proclaiming the GOSPEL Christ preached to THE WORLD on the WORLD-WIDE program, The WORLD TOMORROW! Hundreds are writing in asking, HOW can you send out this powerful broadcast to the world, without ever asking for money—HOW can you publish a magazine of world-wide circulation, WITHOUT SUBSCRIPTION PRICE?

The plain, simple, straightforward answer is, THIS is the work of God, and it is sponsored and endowed ONLY BY GOD ALMIGHTY, thru FAITH,—and it is financed and conducted GOD'S WAY, as God directs IN HIS WORD! God has simply laid it on the hearts of enough scattered individuals—many of them belonging to NO denomination or religious organization, others belonging perhaps to MANY churches or denominations, to PAY GOD'S TITHE and give generous offerings to GOD thru His called and chosen servant whom He uses, and thru whom He speaks! Frankly, I don't understand it myself—I'm a human being like you,—and THIS is the doing and the work of GOD!

But now I want to show you more of the BLESSINGS for OBEDIENCE, and for HONESTY in money matters with GOD, and the curses for neglect or disobedience.

When you pay tithes you are not GIVING God anything. They are not YOURS to give. The tithes BELONG to God. They *never* were yours! You PAY your tithes—or rather, God's tithes. They belong to Him, and He says YOU ARE STEALING when you take them.

God says to us thru Malachi: "Will a man ROB GOD? Yet you have robbed me. But ye say, 'Wherein have we robbed thee?'" And God answers, "IN TITHES AND OFFERINGS. Ye are *cursed with a curse*: for ye have ROBBED me, even this whole nation" (Mal. 3:8-9).

UNDERSTAND THIS: All wealth is produced out of GOD'S EARTH. Do you realize God *adds* His part to this partnership? It is GOD who sends the rain and the sunshine. God has a thousand ways of making what *you do* PAY OFF BIGGER!

When you work diligently in this partnership to produce all you can, when you are honest with your Senior Partner—God—in paying Him HIS PORTION of the proceeds, then God works *with you*, blesses your effort, causes the partnership to produce and earn more. He promises repeatedly in the Bible to PROSPER the tither. The tither has FAR MORE retaining his honest nine tenths than the man who cheats God and robs himself of God's blessing in this partnership. It's a *blessing*, OR a curse, depending on YOU!

#### How You Can Prosper

Continuing in Malachi 3, verse 10: "Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse that there may be meat in *mine* house, and PROVE me herewith, saith the Eternal 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. And I will rebuke the devourer (crop-destroying pest) for your sake . . . neither

shall your vine cast her fruit before the time in the field, SAITH THE LORD of hosts."

That's GOD'S PROMISE! Why don't YOU put God to that test? Why don't YOU PROVE HIM to see if He doesn't increase your income so that your own NINE tenths God gives you will be much larger than your WHOLE income now, that your FINANCIAL WORRIES WILL BE ENDED!

"But I can't afford to tithe," complains one man. God's answer is, can you afford to STEAL from GOD? Pay God HIS tenth—and watch God increase both His tenth and your NINE tenths. That's the way to get bills paid, to get OUT of debt, to be FREE from financial worries.

### A Spiritual Blessing

Tithing is a FINANCIAL law—not a spiritual law. Notwithstanding, the biggest blessing of all is the SPIRITUAL blessing! Jesus said, "Where your treasure is, *there* will your heart be also." That, too, is a law. If your treasure is IN this world's amusements and pleasures—if your money—pardon me,—God's money—is being spent on yourself, and your selfish desires, even including your needs; then your whole heart and interest is in THIS world and not in the Kingdom of God.

Jesus also said, "Seek ye *first* the KINGDOM OF GOD," and all these *material* needs shall be added to you. Seek GOD and you'll prosper. The vast majority of people NEVER KNEW these facts. The times of this IGNORANCE God overlooks, but now COMMANDS ALL YOU WHO KNOW THIS TRUTH to *repent*, and to begin to pay God's tithe regularly.

The way to GROW SPIRITUALLY, and to enjoy the glorious HAPPINESS of God's grace is to put God's tithe and your offerings—your treasure—into GOD'S WORK. Seek with all your heart the KINGDOM OF GOD and financial troubles will soon vanish; your life will become happy, FULL and ABUNDANT with ASSURANCE of LIFE ETERNAL thru Jesus Christ our Lord!