



SABBATH 9—MARCH 2, 2024

Who's the Owner

Psalm 50:12—“If I were hungry, I would not tell you; For the world is Mine, and all its fullness.”

One day a businessman called a lawyer and an accountant and asked them to make some changes to his company's documents. He wanted to demonstrate through these documents that he had understood what faithfulness to God is. He had decided that God would be his business partner, and he asked these professionals to modify the company's documents so that God's name would appear as his partner in the firm. The lawyer and the accountant soon realized that they were facing a big problem because, according to the laws of the land, a partner would have to produce a document number and a fixed address in the country. Now, how would they give God a document or prove his address? They then returned to the owner of the company and proved that legally and officially this would be impossible.

That man returned home sad to see his plan frustrated, but when faced with the teachings of Psalm 50, he finally understood that his plan to include God as a partner in his firm was totally out of sync with reality. He realized that he wanted to give God the right to be his partner in the company, but the truth was that God was giving him the right to have his name on the documents of a company that already belonged to God. We may not recognize that God is the owner, but that doesn't change the truth that He owns everything.

When we understand that principle, our relationship with faithfulness changes completely. We often hear the following appeal in church: “Dedicate your time, your talent, and your resources to meet the needs of God's church.” We need to let go of the idea that we own something and that we need to help the cause of God with our possessions. We urgently need to understand that everything that is in our hands belongs to God by creation and by redemption. That's why we use the expression “return tithes and offerings” since we are only giving back to the cause of the One who owns it.

Appeal: As you return tithes and offerings, reaffirm your conviction that God is the owner and thank Him for allowing us to participate in His cause with the gifts He places in our hands.

