

TITHING?

Does the NT teach tithing?
Is it God's will that His people tithe?
What Law does tithing come under?
What's the difference in an offering
and a tithe?



Definitions

- “tithe” - one-tenth. A tithe is giving one-tenth of all that He has given to you. If your income (salary, gifts, inheritances, etc.) is EUR 100,00 then God commands you to give Him EUR 10,00 back to Him. He makes it clear in His word that that tenth is HIS. MEDITATE: God commands us to give Him 1 out the 10 He has given us to further His work on earth.
- “offering” - a gift/offering unto the Lord that is above the person's tithe. Offerings come after the giving of the tithe.

Why Is There So Much Confusion? Why Have a Seminar?

Feelings vs. Principle

- Unbelievers live by their own lusts and desires (feelings). (Ephesians 2:1-3; 1 John 2:16; Jude 16-18; in contrast to 1 Peter 1:14; 2:11; 4:2)
- How does God govern His universe? By Law or by anarchy.
- What did Jesus teach (with authority)?
 - Man lives His life (all aspects of it) by every Word that comes from the mouth of His Father. (Luke 4:4)
 - Whoever breaks one of these commandments, and teaches men so, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever does and teaches them, he shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven. (Matthew 5:19)
 - Thus you have made the commandment of God of no effect by your tradition (teachings of men). (Matthew 15:1-9)
 - He who loves Me will keep My commandments. (John 14:15, 21, 23-24; 15:10, 13-14)
 - He who does the will of My Father will go to heaven. (Matthew 7:21-27)
- God, the Supreme Being, Creator, King and Lord of HIS universe has given His creatures LAW to live by. He rules by His Laws!

What Changed?

- 18th Century (1727-1890) - the First Great Awakening; the Greatest Missionary Century of all history. (Zinzendorf (Moravians), Livingstone, William Carey, Lott Carey, Henry Martyn, Adoniram Judson, George Mueller, John Paton, J. Hudson Taylor, Andrew Murray, etc.) Churches, through Missionary Societies, sent missionaries to the ends of the earth!
- The late 18th Century, flourishing in the 19th - Higher Criticism.
- Middle of 20th Century: feminism, anti-authority (Government, Church, Family), sexual revolution, birth control, television, divorce, fashions, easy-believism evangelism, anti-law/works theology, Sabbath and tithing only for Jews, materialism, the “world” was invited into the “Church”; international travel, corporate identity of the Body of Christ waned, tracts, devotionals, discipleship began to disappear from churches, etc.
 - ★ ALL of these have **infected** 21st Century “Christians”.
- (2 Timothy 3:1-5) This passage describes a large portion of the “Church” today (the last days) - People **are** “lovers of themselves, lovers of money, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God.”
- When financial situations get hard many will stop tithing to save money with not regret!! **Warning for 2024!**

Statistics (US)

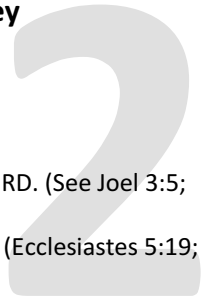
- Only 21% of Christians tithe their annual income.
- 25% give nothing.
- Only 42% of practicing Christians actually tithe (10%).
- Only 43% of Christians can decisively say what a tithe is. It is only a bit higher for practicing Christians - 59%.
- The more a “Christian” earns the less he gives.
- Christians gave more during “Great Depression” (1929-1938) than they do today.

God’s Work (GREAT COMMISSION) Takes Money

- Missionary Support (see handout)
- Church and Her Activities (see handout)

Where Does “Your” Money Come From?

- (Haggai 2:8) All the silver and gold belongs to the LORD. (See Joel 3:5; 1 Chronicles 29:14-16; Psalm 24:1)
- (Deuteronomy 8:17-18) All wealth comes from God. (Ecclesiastes 5:19; 1 Samuel 2:7)



- (Acts 17:24-25) God gives to **everyone** life, breath and everything.

• THEREFORE . . .

- ALL are **STEWARDS** of ALL the **INCOME** (salary, gifts, interest, etc.) given to them by God. (Matt 25:14-25; 1 Peter 4:10-11)
- ALL are to be **GOOD and FAITHFUL** stewards of what God has given to them.
- A **STEWARD** is one who takes what the **MASTER** has given him and uses it to **FULFILL** the **MASTER's** will NOT his own will.
- Failure in being a good and faithful servant/steward of God's gifts has **serious** consequences. (Matthew 25:30)
- One judgment day ALL will given an account of their stewardship. (Hebrews 4:13; Acts 17:30-31; Ecclesiastes 12:13-14; 11:9; Psalm 96:13; Matthew 12:36; Romans 2:16; 14:12; 2 Corinthians 5:9-10)
- ★ **"Your" money is NOT your money. It belongs to the LORD.** (Haggai 2:8; 1 Chronicles 29:14; Psalm 50:10-12)
- Can we see that it is gross greed to withhold 1 out of 10 from God? It is greed to say to God, "Thank you for your gift. I am going to keep all of it for myself to do what I want with it."

What Law Does Tithing Come Under?

- How do you view the Law of God?
 - ✗ Sinners are saved by keeping the Law.
 - ★ The Law of God is the rule of life for believers and unbelievers.
 - ✗ A disciple has nothing to do with the Law of God because he is under grace. (Romans 6:14)
- Three major "LAW" periods in history:
 - ① First 25 centuries: Adam to Mount Sinai
 - ② Mosaic Law - Mount Sinai to the coming of Christ
 - ③ Christian "Church Age" - Resurrection to today
- There are three Laws in the Word of God:
 - ① **The Law of God** - His Moral Law - This Law is an expression of His love and His will for all mankind. This Law God has written on every man's heart (Romans 2:14-15). This was and continues to be the Law since creation. Included in this Law are God's commandments concerning marriage, the Sabbath, tithing, the ten commandments. This Law does not change.
 - ② **The Law of Moses** - God's MORAL LAW plus God's ceremonial and judicial laws that He gave to His chosen nation, Israel.

- ⊕ **The Law of Christ** - God's MORAL LAW and Christ's commands given through His apostles (as written in the NT) in the hand of Christ, our Mediator. Christ came to set His people from the penalty, pollution, power, pleasure and presence of their sins. He **did not** set them free from their obligation to obey and serve God.

God's Moral Law - First 25 Centuries of History (Genesis 1-Exodus 20)

- (Genesis 14:17-20) Abraham gave the priest, of God Most High, Melchizedek, a *tithe* of everything.
 - ★ The author of Hebrews uses this event as a "type" or a "picture" of Abraham's children giving unto Christ, pictured here in the person of Melchizedek. See our Hebrews Lessons 34-37.
- **THIS PASSAGE WAS WRITTEN DOWN FOR OUR LEARNING. DO WE IGNORE IT BECAUSE IT IS IN THE OLD TESTAMENT OR DO WE LEARN FROM IT.** (Romans 15:4)
- (Genesis 28:10-22) Jacob promised to give a *tenth* to the LORD.
- ★ **BEFORE THE LAW WAS GIVEN TO ISRAEL AT MOUNT SINAI GOD'S MORAL LAW WAS FOR MEN TO GIVE A TENTH OF ALL THAT HE, GOD, HAD GIVEN HIM.**

The Mosaic Law (Exodus 20-Deuteronomy 34)

- (v. 1) God (*Elohiym* - the Creating God) spoke to those He had chosen/redeemed.
- **(Leviticus 27:30-32) The LORD tells His people that ALL the tithe belongs to Him. ALL the tithe is HOLY - to be set aside for the LORD.**
- (Numbers 18:21-25) **God gave His tithe to the Levites for them and their families as they did the work of the Tabernacle/Temple.**
- (Numbers 18:25-26) Even the priests and Levites were to tithe what they received *from the LORD*.
- Throughout Israel's history they ignored the tithe. (2 Chronicles 30 and 31; [note the last three words in chapter 31!]; Nehemiah 10:34-37 followed by Malachi 3:6-10) Remember Leviticus 27:30-32. God charged Israel of robbing Him. Taking what was rightly His and keeping it for themselves. Therefore, God cursed them!!!!
- Even after God bring His people back from captivity they did not give to the work of the Lord. They were more concerned with their "panel" houses than the rebuilding of the Temple. So, God cursed them. (Haggai)

What Did Christ Teach about Tithing?

- (Matthew 23:2-3) Christ commanded His people to **do** what the scribes and the Pharisees told them to do! BUT . . .
- (Matthew 23:23) Do not do as they do. They were hypocrites! He rebuke them their lack of mercy and justice and faith **but He endorsed their tithing!!!** No where did Christ abolish tithing - God's moral Law.
- (Matthew 22:21) Christ commanded that His people "give unto Caesar what is Caesar's and **give unto God what is God's.**" Remember Leviticus 27:30-32.

What Did the Apostle Paul Teach/Command?

- See handouts: **Learning to Give As We Ought to Give** - Parts 1-4 - Exposition of 2 Corinthians 8 & 9.
- (1 Corinthians 9:9-14) Paul, **who had only the Old Testament**, connects giving in the NT to the giving of the tithes to the Levites who worked in the Tabernacle/Temple. **NOTE: The "Even so"** in v. 14.
- (1 Corinthians 16:1-2) Paul context Malachi 3:10 by using the words "each one of you lay aside" and "storing up".
 - Each person was to "**lay aside something storing up**" - all were to bring something - no exceptions.
 - "**as the Lord prospered him**" - this teaches that each person was to give *proportionally* what God had given him. NOTE: Our incomes comes from God.
 - **BUT what proportion? What was the will of God? Remember Leviticus 27:30-32.**
 - **Can one man bring a different proportion than another?**
- (2 Corinthians 8:14) Two times Paul commands, with the authority of Christ, that there is to be **equality** in giving. God does not command us to give equally in quantity but commands that all should give equally proportionally.
- (2 Corinthians 9:7) "let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity, for God loves a cheerful giver."
 - Purposeful! προαιρέωμαι (προαιρέω) proaireomai {pro-ah-ee-reh'-om-ah-ee} - has the idea of planning, systematic, determined giving. A farmer who plans will most likely reap more than the one who does not.
- (2 Corinthians 9:8) God promises "to make all grace **abound** toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all things, may have an abundance for every good work."

Should Christians Tithe

- First, one must be "**fully convinced**" in one's mind by a serious study of the whole counsel of God - not the teachings of men - (Romans 14:5) that either tithing is the will of God or it is not the will of God. (Remember Matthew 7:21). One must decide between being free to use God's money as they want or being good and faithful stewards of God's money.
- One sad thing is that we are following the same pattern as Israel did in the Old Testament. See Haggai 1 - and this was written for our learning..
- The truth is that tithing is much more obligatory for saints of the New Testament than the saints of the Old Testament.
★ Luke 12:48
- If Abraham, the father of all who would believe, gave to the priest of God Most High, Melchizedek, a picture of our High Priest, then we are too obligated to give to the Lord what is His.
- Christians are obligated to give unto God what is His. Not to do so is ROBBING God. (Malachi 3:10)
- Tithing is God's way to finance His work on earth.
- What is your part in providing funds for the Great Commission? Or do you believe that others can handle it?

Test Me! (Malachi 3:10)

- "Bring ALL the tithes into the storehouse" - God commands His people to bring in the tithes - to His Temple - the Church is the Temple of God.
- "So that there be food in My house" - remember the tithes were given to the Levites as they did the work of the Temple.
- "TEST ME" - God commands His people to TEST HIM! Meditate on this. God placing Himself on trial before man!!!!!!
- "If I will not open for you the windows of heaven" - same words are used Genesis 7:11-12 - signifying a great abundance!!!!
- "And I will pour out for you such a blessing that there will not be room enough to receive it!" - God promises to richly and abundantly bless those who OBEY Him!
- God promises to honor those who honor Him. (1 Samuel 2:30)
- (Psalm 19:11) In keeping God's commandments there is great reward.
- (2 Corinthians 9:6) He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully.

- (2 Corinthians 9:10) Now may **HE** who supplies seed to the sower, and bread for food, supply and multiply the seed you have sown and increase the fruits of your righteousness.
- **NOT TO BELIEVE GOD'S PROMISES IS NOT TO BELIEVE GOD!**

Objections

- "I cannot afford to tithe because I have to take care of my family."
 ✗ If you are not faithful toward God you will bring more hardship upon your family.
- "I cannot afford to tithe my financial situation is a mess."
 ✗ Probably because of poor decisions you made.
 ✗ Continuing to rob God is not going to make your situation better.
- **THERE IS A GREAT DANGER FOR YOU AND YOUR FAMILY WHEN YOU PUT FAMILY/YOURSELF/OTHERS BEFORE THE LORD.**
- "I give as I purpose in my heart in accordance with 2 Corinthians 9:7."
 → God's Law is written on Christians' hearts. A Christian's heart will lead him to give in accordance with the Law of God.
- "I give as the Spirit moves me to give." The Holy Spirit is given to Christians to **cause** them to walk in, keep, and do God's commandments. (Ezekiel 36:26-27) The Holy Spirit will always move a Christian to keep God's commandments. How does one test the Spirit that is moving him? (1 John 4:1; Isaiah 8:20)

Examples of Giving (2 Corinthians 8:1-8)

- (Luke 21:1-4) The widow with two mites.
 ★ She was poor and she gave.
- (2 Corinthians 8:1-8) The Macedonians' giving and their secret.
 ★ They were extremely poor and they begged to give.

Learning from the Macedonians and the Giving of Offerings

(2 Corinthians 8:1-9)

- Lessons learned - see "Learning to Give as We Ought (Part 1)"
 - ① (v.1) Christians give **because they have received grace**. Grace in us can be seen by others. **Grace works**.
 - ② (v. 2a) Christians give **despite very hard times**.
 - ③ (v. 2b) Christians give with an **overflowing abundance of joy**.
 - ④ (v. 2c) Christians give despite their own **extreme poverty**.
 - ⑤ (v. 2d) Christians give **generously**.
 - ⑥ (v. 3a) Christians give **proportionally**.
 - ⑦ (v. 3b) Christians give **sacrificially**.
 - ⑧ (v. 3c) Christians give **freely**.

- ⑨ (v. 4) **Christians beg to give.**
- ⑩ (vv. 5-6) Christians give as an act of worship and in submission to God's will.
- (v. 5) **The Macedonians' Secret:**
 - ❶ They gave themselves **FIRST** to the LORD.
 - ❷ They gave themselves to **OTHERS**.
 - ❸ They considered themselves **LAST**.

Practical Advice

- ① Do the will of the Father. (Matthew 7:21)
- ② **FIRST**, seek God's kingdom and HIS righteousness and God promises to take care of all your needs. (Matthew 6:33; Psalm 37:18-19, 25; 84:11-12; 1 Timothy 4:7-8)
- ③ Sow generously, not sparingly, and reap abundantly. (2 Corinthians 9:6)
- ④ Develop a habit of giving God your "firstfruits" **FIRST** and you will avoid the temptation to hold on to it or spend it.
- ⑤ Give purposefully, deliberately, systematically, proportionally, and spontaneously. (2 Corinthians 9:7)
- ⑥ Giving is an expression of your love for God. (John 14:21, 23-24; 1 John 5:3)
- ⑦ Husbands/fathers take care of your family by tithing.
- ⑧ Give God what is His. Do not rob God. (Malachi 3:10)
- ⑨ Give generously - more than a tithe! (2 Corinthians 9:6; Galatians 6:7-9)

