

RECALCULATING THE TITHE

A RIGHTLY DIVIDED RECONSIDERATION OF TITHING

*"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.*

~ Numbers 18:21

1. The Church's Bottom Line

- a. How would you describe what goes on in an average church? What do churches do?
- b. *Survey says?* ... Collect tithes (and offerings!), ask for money, pass a plate, fundraise
- c. 27% of all charitable giving is in tithes/offerings to churches (down from 70% in 1950s)
- d. The church receives 130+ billion a year. 90 billion goes to salaries and buildings
- e. The Bible (and Jesus!) teaches covenant giving – Pro 3:9-10, Matt 23:23, Luk 6:38
- f. *How can churches operate without tithing?* They don't. Most won't. None should.

2. Biblical Law of Tithing

- a. 1st tithe – tenth required to be paid to the Levites for temple service – Num 18:20-24
 - i. Levites tithed a tenth to the priests – Num 18:26
 - ii. Tithe was paid in animals and crops (or add 20%) – Lev 27:30-34
- b. 2nd tithe – tithe the increase on what your soul lusts after – Deu 14:22-27
 - i. Tithe was sent to Jerusalem (and the temple) – Deu 12:5-11, 18
- c. 3rd tithe – tithe the increase in your gates to the disinherited - Deu 14:28-29
 - i. Blessings received for paying the required tithes – Deu 26:12-15
- d. There were also tributes for spoils of war (1/500th) – Num 31:30
- e. In addition, there are sacrifices, offerings, and free will offerings (not tithes)

3. A Wrong Time to Tithe

- a. Not to God's ordained Levites – Korah was swallowed up by the earth -Num 16:32
- b. No temple, no land, no priesthood = no tithe, but it was reestablished in Neh 10:34-38
- c. Tithe collection gone wrong under the covenant – Neh 13:10, and Mal 3:8-10
- d. In the kingdom, the whole nation are priests – Isa 61:6
- e. Jesus (not a Levite) never collected a tithe during his ministry – Lk 10:4-7, 22:35-36
- f. Peter did not receive tithes for ministry - "*sell all...*" – Luke 12:33, Acts 2:45, 4:34-35
- g. In this dispensation of grace, you are not under the law – Rom 6:14
- h. Paul did not teach nor receive tithes for his ministry – 1 Cor 9:6-13, 1Th 2:9, Acts 20:34
- i. Beware those who put you under bondage and take from you – 2 Cor 11:20, 12:14-15
- a. Jews nor Christians have right to claim divine storehouses today, it is out of due time.

4. Tithing Fails Under Grace

- a. Only .6% of 'Christians' give (1.5/247), avg only 3-5%, in Christ we are dead to the law
- b. Israel tithed to priests; there are no priests, temples, or required penance under grace.
- c. If we're blessed by tithing, we don't need the grace of Christ – Gal 2:21, 5:2-4
- d. If we're cursed for failing to tithe, then Christ died in vain – Ga 3:10-13, 4:9, Co 2:13-17
- e. Tithing today is money wrongly attained (i.e. filthy lucre) – Titus 1:7, 11
- f. Required tithing is not giving of your own free will (grace/generosity) - 2 Cor 9:7

- g. Without a covenant it fails and causes harm (*The poor tithe more than the rich!*)
- h. God's relationship to you becomes that of a beggar, than a gracious giver – Gal 4:9
- i. If you have the gift of eternal life and all spiritual blessings, stop paying tithes.
- j. Grace giving is out of gratitude, not greed or guilt for gain. Give freely.
- k. Using the law to motivate giving denies the sufficient work of God's abundant grace.
- l. Under law generosity began at 10%; under grace it is all free will gracious generosity.
- m. Don't purpose to give to any church that cannot see error in teaching required tithing.