

## *Tithing Unto the Lord*

Reading: Psalm 111

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**Disclaimer:** Not a comprehensive study – much more can be said.

- I personally don't know what anyone gives to this church, except what I give.
  - System in place: Elders / counters, rotating – secretary @ end of year.
  - Intentional buffer & protection for me.
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- Tithing is not, should not be driven by the needs of the church or of a particular ministry, in so doing it becomes manipulative and driven either by emotion or greed.
- Tithing is to be driven by God's Word as an act of obedience, devotion, and love.
- Tithing is one of the many ways in which we worship God; telling Him that He has greater value to us than anything we have or own, it's an acknowledgment that everything we have comes from Him.
- We tithe of our time, money, skills, giftings, of our lives.

**James 1:17** “Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.”

- Principle of “first mention” – sets the tone for future understanding of a principal or teaching.

**Genesis 14:17-20** <sup>17</sup>And the king of Sodom went out to meet him after his return from the slaughter of Chedorlaomer, and of the kings that were with him, at the valley of Shaveh, which is the king's dale. <sup>18</sup>And Melchizedek king of Salem brought forth bread and wine: and he was the priest of the Most High God. <sup>19</sup>And he blessed him, and said, blessed be Abraham of the most high God, possessor of heaven and earth: <sup>20</sup>And blessed be the most high God, which hath delivered thine enemies into thy hand. And he gave him tithes of all.”

**Hebrews 7:7** “And without all contradiction the less is blessed of the better.”

- God doesn't “need” our tithes, it is for our benefit, to keep us close to Him.

**Psalm 50:10**

Tithe = 10<sup>th</sup>

Jacob prayed and made a vow unto God:

**Genesis 28:22** “And this stone which I have set for a pillar, shall be God's house: and of all that thou shalt give me I will surely give the tenth unto thee.”

**Exodus 30:11-16** describes how each male, 20 years old and above, rich or poor shall pay a ½ shekel as a ransom to the Lord to make atonement for their souls and that it would be used for the service of the Tabernacle.

**Leviticus 27:30-33** <sup>30</sup>And all the tithe of the land, whether of the seed of the land, or of the fruit of the tree, is the Lord's: it is holy unto the Lord. <sup>31</sup>And if a man will at all redeem aught of his tithes, he shall add thereto the fifth part thereof. <sup>32</sup>And concerning the tithe of the herd, or of the flock, even of whatsoever passeth under the rod, the tenth shall be holy unto the Lord. <sup>33</sup>He shall not search whether it be good or bad, neither shall he change it: and if he change it at all, then both it and the change thereof shall be holy; it shall not be redeemed.”

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- There is a difference between the “tithe” which is the minimum, and gifts and offerings which go beyond the minimum of the tithe.
- Old Testament / Law: tithes & required offerings etc. approaching 30%.
- The law describes the tithes to the Lord, then at one point in Exodus 36 there was a need for materials; gold, silver, brass, precious stones, scarlet, purple, and blue to construct all the tabernacle and furnishings – the people brought so much that they had to be told to stop

### **How much we give isn't nearly as important as how we give:**

**Luke 21:1-4** <sup>1</sup>And He looked up, and saw the rich men casting their gifts into the treasury. <sup>2</sup>And He saw also a certain poor widow casting thither two mites. <sup>3</sup>And He said, of a truth I say unto you, that this poor widow hath cast in more than they all: <sup>4</sup>For all these have of their abundance cast in unto the offerings of God: but she of her penury / poverty cast in all the living that she had.”

- She gave sacrificially – she probably had other bills to pay.

**2 Corinthians 8:1-3** <sup>1</sup>Moreover, brethren, we do you to wit of the grace of God bestowed on the churches of Macedonia; <sup>2</sup>How that in a great trial of affliction the abundance of their joy and their deep poverty abounded unto the riches of their liberality. <sup>3</sup>For to their power, I bear record, yea, and beyond their power they were willing of themselves; <sup>4</sup>praying us with much entreaty that we would receive the gift, and take upon us the fellowship of the ministering to the saints. <sup>5</sup>And this they did, not as we hoped, but first gave their own selves to the Lord, and unto us by the will of God.”

- Our giving should be discreet, not something to show off or brag about.

**Matthew 6:1-4** “<sup>1</sup>Take heed that ye do not your alms before men, to be seen of them: otherwise ye have no reward of your Father which is in heaven. <sup>2</sup>Therefore when thou doest thine alms, do not sound a trumpet before thee, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may have glory of men. Verily I say unto you, they have their reward. <sup>3</sup>But when thou doest alms, let not thy left hand know what thy right hand doeth: <sup>4</sup>That thine alms may be in secret: and thy Father which seeth in secret Himself shall reward thee openly.”

**Our giving should be an act of devotion and worship, an expression of love:**

**2 Corinthians 9:6-7** “<sup>6</sup>But this I say, He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully. <sup>7</sup>Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver.”

**Matthew 6:19-21** “<sup>19</sup>Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: <sup>20</sup>But lay up for yourselves treasure in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: <sup>21</sup>For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.”

Two opposites:

**Matthew 19:16-22** Rich young ruler who was ruled by his riches.

**Luke 19:1-10** Zacchaeus, demonstrated that he was no longer controlled by money.

**Matthew 6:24** “No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.”

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- **Plan ahead as opposed to spontaneous giving, giving systematically.**

**1 Corinthians 16:1-2** “<sup>1</sup>Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I have given order to the churches of Galatia, even so do ye. <sup>2</sup>Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him, that there be no gathering when I come.”

- No shakedown or emotional pleas, no manipulation.
- Understand that the majority of those he is addressing in Corinth are poor slaves, who hardly have anything to give.
- There is no % rule, but there is an expectation that those who have been blessed much will give much – in a proportional sense.

**1 Timothy 6:17-19** <sup>17</sup>Charge them that are rich in this world, that they be not high minded, nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy; <sup>18</sup>That they do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to distribute, willing to communicate; <sup>19</sup>laying up in store for themselves a good foundation against the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life.”

- First fruits vs: leftovers

**Deuteronomy 26:2** “That thou shalt take of the first of all the fruit of the earth, which thou shalt bring of thy land that the Lord thy God giveth thee, and shalt put it in a basket, and shalt go unto the place which the Lord thy God shall choose to place his name there.”

- Practically speaking this means making a commitment to a particular church, your church home. If you are being fed, being ministered to – receiving God’s Word at a particular fellowship – that is where your tithes and offering should go.
- After that, there may be a number of ministries that you might support with your gifts – which is good because a “tithe” or 10% is just a starting place.
- Old Testament law of the tithe vs: NT example of giving everything.

**Acts 4:32-37**

**Romans 12:1** “I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of body, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.”

**Philippians 3:7-8** <sup>7</sup>But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ. <sup>8</sup>Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ.”

- This speaks of a value system that put Christ up on high and money very low; but how would that be demonstrated?

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- Some might say I don’t want to tithe, I won’t tithe, I can’t tithe:

**Malachi 3:8-12** <sup>8</sup>Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings. <sup>9</sup>Ye are cursed with a curse: for ye have robbed me, even this whole nation. <sup>10</sup>Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the Lord 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. <sup>11</sup>And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, and he shall not destroy the fruits of your ground; neither shall your vine cast her fruit before the time in the field, saith the Lord of hosts. <sup>12</sup>And all nations shall call you blessed: for ye shall be a delightsome land, saith the Lord of hosts.”

- Tithing is just one of many commandments; to love, to forgive, to serve; tithing is not an option.

**Proverbs 11:24-25** “<sup>24</sup>There is that scattereth / giveth, and yet increaseth; and there is that withholdeth more than is meet, but it tendeth to poverty. <sup>25</sup>The liberal soul / the generous soul shall be made fat: and he that watereth shall be watered also himself.”

“One man gives freely, yet gains even more; another withholds unduly, but comes to poverty. A generous man will prosper; he who refreshes others will himself be refreshed.”

Paul describing the life of a believer, suffering for Jesus he ends it with: **2 Corinthians 6:1-10**

**2 Corinthians 6:10** “As sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing all things.”