



FIRST THINGS – PART 2

November 5th, 2017

Life Not Law

Transforming Truths About Tithing

1. Tithing was BEFORE THE LAW.

And Melchizedek, the king of Salem and a priest of God Most High, brought Abram some bread and wine.¹⁹ Melchizedek blessed Abram with this blessing: "Blessed be Abram by God Most High, Creator of heaven and earth."²⁰ And blessed be God Most High, who has defeated your enemies for you." Then Abram gave Melchizedek a tenth of all the goods he had recovered. - Genesis 14:18-20 NLT

Genesis 2:15-17

2. Tithing is A TEST.

For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. - Matthew 6:21 NIV

"Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this," says the LORD Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it." - Malachi 3:10 NIV

3. Tithing Demands OBEDIENCE.

Galatians 3:13-14

He personally carried our sins in his body on the cross so that we can be dead to sin and live for what is right. By his wounds you are healed. - 1 Peter 2:24 NLT

Matthew 8:17

4. Tithing is a GRACE STANDARD.

"Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them.¹⁸ For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth disappear, not the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen, will by any means disappear from the Law until everything is accomplished.¹⁹ Therefore anyone who sets aside one of the least of these commands and teaches others accordingly will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever practices and teaches these commands will be called great in the kingdom of heaven.²⁰ For I tell you that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the Pharisees and the teachers of the law, you will certainly not enter the kingdom of heaven. - Matthew 5:17-20 NIV

The Righteousness of Grace **ALWAYS EXCEEDS** the Righteousness of the Law.

“Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You give a tenth of your spices—mint, dill and cumin. But you have neglected the more important matters of the law—justice, mercy and faithfulness. You should have practiced the latter, without neglecting the former. - Matthew 23:23 NIV

5. Tithing is Part of a **SUPERIOR PRIESTHOOD.**

Genesis 14:18-20

*And, once made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him¹⁰ and was designated by God to be high priest in the order of Melchizedek.
- Hebrews 5:9-10 NIV*

Hebrews 7:1-3

Here mortal men receive tithes, but there he receives them, of whom it is witnessed that he lives. - Hebrews 7:8 NKJV

6. Tithing Expresses **GRATITUDE.**

And this stone that I have set up as a pillar will be God's house, and of all that you give me I will give you a tenth. - Genesis 28:22 NIV

7. Tithing is the **SACRED PORTION.**

A tithe of everything from the land, whether grain from the soil or fruit from the trees, belongs to the LORD; it is holy to the LORD. - Leviticus 27:30 NIV

Deuteronomy 26:1-2, 13-14

8. Tithing Brings in **THE BLESSING!**

2 Chronicles 31:4-10

My Next Step This Week...

- Memorize *Matthew 6:21*.
- Start tithing to Crosswind Church.
- Get out of debt so I can be generous on all occasions.
- Give my life to Jesus as Savior and Lord, for the first time.

Walk the Talk

A Small Group Discussion Guide

1. When you were a kid caught with your hand in the cookie jar, how did you react?
2. Read Malachi 3:6-18 aloud to the group:
 - a. How had Malachi's peers robbed God? With what kind of results?
 - b. How does the Lord challenge his people to "put him to the test," and why do you think he does so with money?
 - c. What is the promise, and what do you think that looks like in the world today?
 - d. Based on verses 13-14, what is wrong with having a "what's in it for me" mindset that is so common today?
 - e. Based on verse 18, what distinguishes the righteous from the wicked?
3. Pick one point on tithing, in the outline above, and tell us how it helped you or challenged you spiritually.
4. Have a time of prayer for each other to embrace the firstfruits principle in your group.