

LIFE TOGETHER
at
CHRIST THE ROCK FELLOWSHIP

LESSON 8

TITHING AND GIVING

Introduction: The principle of giving in a regular, systematic way was established before the law with Abraham, by the law with Moses, and after the law in the New Testament with the Apostle Paul. *II Cor. 9:7 and Romans 11:35-36*

Key verse: *Mal. 3:10-12 "Bring all the tithe - the whole tenth of your income - into the storehouse, that there may be food in My House, and prove Me now by it, says the Lord of Host, if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room to receive it. And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, and he shall not destroy the fruits of your ground; neither shall your vine drop its fruit before the time in the fields, says the Lord of Hosts. And all nations shall call you blessed; for you shall be a land of delight, says the Lord of Hosts.*

I. Two Elements That Make Up Life - Time and Property

- A. Time is that continuing part that God gives us.
- B. Property is that part of God's natural good which is granted to a given individual.
- C. We are to be good stewards of both.

II. What is the tithe?

- A. The meaning of the Anglo-Saxon word tithe is "the tenth."
- B. Tithe is a physical demonstration of our faith.

III. Biblical References.

- A. Cain and Able gave the first fruits. *Gen. 4:3-7*
 - 3 *And in the process of time it came to pass that Cain brought an offering of the fruit of the ground to the LORD.*
 - 4 *Abel also brought of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat. And the LORD respected Abel and his offering,*
 - 5 *but He did not respect Cain and his offering. And Cain was very angry, and his countenance fell.*

6 So the LORD said to Cain, "Why are you angry? And why has your countenance fallen?"

7 "If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin lies at the door. And its desire is for you, but you should rule over it."

B. Abraham recognized an authority higher than himself. *Gen. 14:18-23*

18 Then Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine; he was the priest of God Most High.

19 And he blessed him and said: "Blessed be Abram of God Most High, Possessor of heaven and earth;

20 And blessed be God Most High, who has delivered your enemies into your hand." And he gave him a tithe of all.

21 Now the king of Sodom said to Abram, "Give me the persons, and take the goods for yourself."

22 But Abram said to the king of Sodom, "I have raised my hand to the LORD, God Most High, the Possessor of heaven and earth,

23 "that I will take nothing, from a thread to a sandal strap, and that I will not take anything that is yours, lest you should say, 'I have made Abram rich'--

Heb. 7:1-7 affirms that Abraham understood a power or authority higher than himself.

1. He gave as a duty to God.
2. He gave as an expression of love and thanks.

C. The tithe. *Lev. 27:30-33*

30 '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 to the LORD.

31 'If a man wants at all to redeem any of his tithes, he shall add one-fifth to it.

32 'And concerning the tithe of the herd or the flock, of whatever passes under the rod, the tenth one shall be holy to the LORD.

33 'He shall not inquire whether it is good or bad, nor shall he exchange it; and if he exchanges it at all, then both it and the one exchanged for it shall be holy; it shall not be redeemed.'"

1. Tenth of produce of the land.
2. Tenth of livestock.

Deut. 14:22-29

22 "You shall truly tithe all the increase of your grain that the field produces year by year.

23 *"And you shall eat before the LORD your God, in the place where He chooses to make His name abide, the tithe of your grain and your new wine and your oil, of the firstborn of your herds and your flocks, that you may learn to fear the LORD your God always.*

24 *"But if the journey is too long for you, so that you are not able to carry the tithe, or if the place where the LORD your God chooses to put His name is too far from you, when the LORD your God has blessed you,*

25 *"then you shall exchange it for money, take the money in your hand, and go to the place which the LORD your God chooses.*

26 *"And you shall spend that money for whatever your heart desires: for oxen or sheep, for wine or similar drink, for whatever your heart desires; you shall eat there before the LORD your God, and you shall rejoice, you and your household.*

27 *"You shall not forsake the Levite who is within your gates, for he has no part nor inheritance with you.*

28 *"At the end of every third year you shall bring out the tithe of your produce of that year and store it up within your gates.*

29 *"And the Levite, because he has no portion nor inheritance with you, and the stranger and the fatherless and the widow who are within your gates, may come and eat and be satisfied, that the LORD your God may bless you in all the work of your hand which you do.*

1. Yearly increase of the land.
2. Eaten by Levite.
3. Object was fear of Jehovah. Fear - reverence and awesome respect for.

Deut. 14:28-29

28 *"At the end of every third year you shall bring out the tithe of your produce of that year and store it up within your gates.*

29 *"And the Levite, because he has no portion nor inheritance with you, and the stranger and the fatherless and the widow who are within your gates, may come and eat and be satisfied, that the LORD your God may bless you in all the work of your hand which you do.*

1. Third year's increase.
2. Shared by the Levite.
3. Object was that God might bless the tithe giver.

D. Teachings of Christ. Matt. 23:23; Matt. 20:25

1. Ten Commandments, the Sabbath, the Tithe still stand.

Matt 23:23

23 "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you pay tithe of mint and anise and cummin, and have neglected the weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and faith. These you ought to have done, without leaving the others undone.

E. The teachings of Paul. *I Cor. 16:1-2; 2 Cor 8:12-15*

12 For if there is first a willing mind, it is accepted according to what one has, and not according to what he does not have.

13 For I do not mean that others should be eased and you burdened;

14 but by an equality, that now at this time your abundance may supply their lack, that their abundance also may supply your lack-- that there may be equality.

15 As it is written, "He who gathered much had nothing left over, and he who gathered little had no lack."

1. The Divine rule for Christian giving. It has to be given from the heart.

Col. 3:17; 2 Cor 9:6-7

6 But this I say: He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully.

7 So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver.

Col 3:17

17 And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.

2. We need to learn to hear the Lord's voice in giving.

IV. Practical Reasons for Tithing

A. It honors God.

B. God has seen fit for His work to be dependent upon us. *II Cor. 9:13, 14*

13 while, through the proof of this ministry, they glorify God for the obedience of your confession to the gospel of Christ, and for your liberal sharing with them and all men,

14 and by their prayer for you, who long for you because of the exceeding grace of God in you.

C. It sets us free to be generous. *II Cor. 9:6-7*

6 But this I say: He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully.

7 So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver.

- D. It is a practical way to show our love for the Lord Jesus Christ and to show that He is indeed Lord in our lives. *1 Tim 6:10*
- E. Because of the blessings God has promised.

V. Offerings - giving beyond what is required (beyond the tithe)

- A. As praise and worship to the Lord
- B. In response to special needs
- C. Out of gratitude for a special blessing from the Lord
- D. Faith commitment giving

VI. Some other principles:

- A. God values obedience above sacrifice
- B. Principle of sowing and reaping. *Gal. 6:6-10*
 - 6 Let him who is taught the word share in all good things with him who teaches.*
 - 7 Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap.*
 - 8 For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life.*
 - 9 And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart.*
 - 10 Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith.*
- C. It's not the amount, it's the attitude

VII. Warning - there are some excellent fundraisers out there.

- A. Don't be manipulated.
- B. Don't give out of guilt
- C. Don't give away your grocery or rent money
- D. Don't give in order to get
- E. Do obey the Lord