

THANKS for GIVING: SCRIPTURAL TRUTHS ABOUT STEWARDING TREASURE

The Tithe: A Foundation Stone for Our Faith

(Malachi 3:8-10)

*“Will a man rob God? Yet you rob me. But you ask, ‘How do we rob you?’ In tithes and offerings. **You are under a curse—the whole nation of you**—because you are robbing me. 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: 8-10)*

“If my people who are called by my name humble themselves, and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land.” (II Chronicles 7:14)

The TITHE means “a tenth part.” Leviticus 27:30 says,

“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)

But if it is not at least a tenth, it is not a tithe! Listen to what God says in Malachi 3:8.

*“Bring the **whole** tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house.” (Malachi 3:8)*

“Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse,” not just part of it.

❖ What is the Value of Tithing

The stated purpose of tithing is found in Deuteronomy 14:23 which says,

“That you may learn to revere the Lord your God always.” (Deuteronomy 14:23)

- The Tithe is about Starting Patterns

The tithe is where God started His first covenant people. It is the beginning of giving!

- The Tithe is about Spiritual Perspective

It reminds us that all we are and all we have is from God. Tithing is not a tip thrown mindlessly down on a table after a meal, but a meaningful expression of dependence upon God and gratitude to Him.

The tithe was a divine invitation to test God’s promises to provide (Mal. 3:8-12).

Tithing begins as a duty but can and should become a delight, leading to joyful voluntary giving.

Therefore, we must return to the Scriptures and understand ...

❖ **What is the View of Grace, Law, and Tithing**

Every New Testament example of giving goes **beyond** the tithe.

- The Significance of Old Testament Concepts in the New

We are never told that tithing has been superseded! Therefore, the burden of proof falls on those who say tithing is no longer a **minimum** standard for God's people.

We must also consider other things in relation to the tithe. For example,

- Tithing and the Sabbath

Christ fulfilled the entire Old Testament, but he didn't render it irrelevant!

In addition to looking at and understanding the tithe and the sabbath, we must also look at ...

- Tithing and the Sacrifices

Some have said, we don't offer sacrifices anymore, so why should we tithe?

The obvious and Biblical answer is simply that sacrifices are specifically rescinded in the New Testament.

- Tithing and Voluntary Giving

Some argue against tithing by saying, “*The New Testament advocates voluntary offerings.*” Yes, but as we’ve seen, so does the Old Testament.

Being under grace does not mean living by lower standards than the law.

- The Significance of Grace Giving
- The Tithe is a Tutor to Giving

Many people do not give because they haven’t been taught to give.

Tithing isn’t the finish line of giving; it’s the starting block. But, clearly, most of us need help getting started!

- Can Tithing be Legalistic?

Of course. The holy habits of church attendance, prayer, and Bible reading can also degenerate into legalism—but that doesn’t make them illegitimate.