

Church Just Wants Your Money  
Not From You, But For You  
October 19/20, 2019

**1 Timothy 6:9-10** Those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. For the **love of money** is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.

- ✓ Tithing is a test.

**Malachi 3:6-12** “For I am the Lord, **I do not change**; Therefore you are not consumed, O sons of Jacob. Yet from the days of your fathers. You have gone away from **My ordinances** And have not kept them. Return to Me, and I will return to you,” Says the Lord of hosts. “But you said, ‘In what way shall we return? **Will a man rob God?** Yet you have robbed Me! But you say, ‘In what way have we robbed You?’ In tithes and offerings. You are cursed with a curse, For you have robbed Me, Even this whole nation. **Bring** all the tithes **into the storehouse**, That there may be food in My house, And **try Me** now in this,” Says the Lord of hosts, “If I will not open for you the windows of heaven And pour out for you such blessing That there will not be room enough to receive it. “And I will rebuke the devourer **for your sakes**, So that he will not destroy the fruit of your ground, Nor shall the vine fail to bear fruit for you in the field,” Says the Lord of hosts; “And all nations will **call you blessed**, For you will be a delightful land,” Says the Lord of hosts.

- ✓ Tithing is biblical.

**Genesis 14:18-20** Then Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine. He was priest of God Most High, and he blessed Abram, saying, “Blessed be Abram by God Most High, Creator of heaven and earth. And praise be to God Most High, who delivered your enemies into your hand.” Then Abram gave him a tenth of everything.

**Genesis 28:20-22** Then Jacob made a vow, saying, “If God will be with me and will watch over me on this journey I am taking and will give me food to eat and clothes to wear so that I return safely to my father’s household, then the Lord will be my God 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.

**Leviticus 27:30** 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.

**Matthew 23:23** 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.

**Hebrews 7:8** In the one case tithes are received by mortal men, but in the other case, by one of whom it is testified that he lives.

- ✓ Tithing is a blessing.

**2 Chronicles 31:4-10** He ordered the people living in Jerusalem to give the portion due the priests and Levites so they could devote themselves to the Law of the Lord. As soon as the order went out, the Israelites generously gave the firstfruits of their grain, new wine, olive oil and honey and all that the fields produced. They brought a great amount, a tithe of everything. The people of Israel and Judah who lived in the towns of Judah also brought a **tithe** of their herds and flocks and a tithe of the holy things dedicated to the Lord their God, and they piled them in heaps. They began doing this in the third month and finished in the seventh month. When Hezekiah and his officials came and saw the heaps, they praised the Lord and blessed his people Israel...Since the people began to bring their contributions to the temple of the Lord, we have had enough to eat and plenty to spare, because the Lord has blessed his people, and this great amount is left over.

Why?

1. Jesus gave to us first.

Matthew 10:8 Freely you have received; freely give.

John Bonnell said, "If one first gives himself to the Lord, all other giving is easy."

2. It is fun.

**Acts 20:35** It is more blessed to give than it is to receive.

Winston Churchill: We make a living by what we get we make a life by what you give.

3. I'm in covenant with God and with you.

**Psalms 92:13** Those who are planted in the house of the Lord. Shall flourish in the courts of our God.

**Ecclesiastes 4:9** Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labor.

Key Thought: None of us are as good as all of us.

4. The vision of the local church.

**Ephesians 3:10 (Msg)** Through followers of Jesus like yourselves gathered in churches, this extraordinary **plan of God is becoming known** and talked about even among the angels!

5. One day we will meet Jesus.

**Matthew 25:23** His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!'

**Walk Away:** By faith I will give God the first of my increase, because I know God will bless the rest.