

The Gift of Giving
Gift of Giving Message Series Week 3
Pastor Jeff Burkholder
February 28, 2021

A. Is tithing for today?

No, tithing is not a command to be obeyed today because...

1. Followers of Jesus are no longer obligated to obey the Mosaic Law. (Romans 10:4; Galatians 3:23-25)

2. Nowhere in the New Testament are followers of Jesus taught to tithe.

B. What does the New Testament teach about giving?

Principles:

1. Give generously. (2 Corinthians 9:6, 11, 13)
2. Give cheerfully. (2 Corinthians 9:7)
3. Give knowing God will meet your needs.
(2 Corinthians 9:6-8)
4. Give sacrificially. (2 Corinthians 8:1-3)
5. Give in response to needs. (2 Corinthians 8:14)
6. Give to support missionaries. (Philippians 4:14-19)
7. Give to make an eternal investment.
(Matthew 6:19-20)

“You can’t take it with you—but you *can* send it on ahead.”

Randy Alcorn, *The Treasure Principle*, Multnomah Press,
Portland Oregon, 2017, p. 18.

8. Give regularly a portion of your income.
(1 Corinthians 16:1-2)

C. Why give generously to the Lord?

1. It's a natural response to God's grace.

For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich.

2 Corinthians 8:9

“Jesus gave not just a tenth of himself, but all of his riches. He embraced poverty so that we might become rich (2 Cor. 8:9). His radical act of total self-giving is the only thing that can consistently move us to give beyond the minimum. In essence, if we don't desire to respond to God's grace with sacrificial giving, then we have not yet fully understood the nature of the gospel. The answer to our motivation problem is not adherence to a new command but a more thoroughgoing knowledge and experience of the extravagant self-giving of Christ.”

The ESV Gospel Transformation Bible, Crossway, 2013, pp. 1563-1564.

2. It's an act of worship. (Philippians 4:18)

“So it is with our money. Our money at the altar is not a payment, but (to paraphrase Luke Timothy Johnson) a symbolic expression of ourselves. It is as much our presenting ourselves to God as the bread and wine are ultimately the Lord's presenting Himself to us.

Further, the Table reminds us of God's lavish generosity. Holding nothing back, Jesus came and made the one offering that counts for our rescue and redemption. ‘The Messiah also loved us and gave Himself for us, a sacrificial and fragrant offering to God’ (Eph 5:2). Jesus, the offering and the offerer, is our model and our leader in worship (Heb 8:2). Thus our offerings imitate Jesus' offering, and we find convergence between ‘the more important matters...without neglecting the others.’ The liturgy embodies a lovely picture of it all—our offering is about so much more than paying a preacher!”

David A. Croteau, *Perspectives on Tithing*, B&H Publishing Group, Nashville, TN, 2011, p. 118-119.

Response:

As a result of prayer, reflecting on the New Testament scriptures on giving, and out of an appreciation for God's grace and generosity in Jesus, out of obedience to God and an act of worship, I/we will give _____% of my/our income to God in 2021.

Recommended Reading:

- *The Treasure Principle* by Randy Alcorn (at the Welcome Center)
- *Perspectives on Tithing* by David A. Croteau