

Introduction

Salvation has a life changing impact on the way we handle our finances. God's Word says we should use our money as good stewards. *1Cor 9:1-14, Mat 6:19-24, 2Cor 9:1-15, Lk 6:38, Lk 16:11, Pro 11:24,25*. The Bible warns us about the love of money, *1Tim 6:10*, but does not condemn money as evil. Money can be used wisely, and for doing good, or for unrighteous purposes. It is amoral. One of the principles of the scriptures regarding money is the teaching on **tithing**.

Stewardship (See Pastor's notes No 135)

We are to use our time, money, possessions and talents, wisely for the service of God and the blessing of others. "It is required in stewards that one be found faithful," *1Cor 4:2, Mat 24:45, 25:21*. **Tithing** is a part of being a faithful steward with our finances.

The Meaning of "Tithing"

The word "tithing" means the giving of one tenth of our money, produce or possessions. "And **concerning the tithe** of the herd or the flock, of whatever passes under the rod, **the tenth shall be holy to the Lord,**" *Lev 27:32*.

The Origins of Tithing

The Bible records that Abraham gave "tithes of all" to Melchizedec, King of Salem, *Gen 14:20KJV*. Also Jacob promised God the tithe. *Gen 28:22*. The principle of tithing was established long before the "Law of Moses."

Why do we Tithe? a. To learn to fear God, *Deut 14:22,23*, and obey Him, *Ps 112:1*.

b. To declare that we are trusting God as our total source of our supply. *Phil 4:19, Mal 3:10, Jer 2:13, Lk 6:38*.

c. To provide support for those called by God into Christian service, *Num 18:24, 1Cor 9:7,9,11,14*.

d. To provide for the work of the church in missions, care of the poor, *Ac 6:1-3, 1Tim 5:9, 2Cor 9:5, Phil 4:15,16*.

Jesus Comment in Tithing. In *Mat 23:23* Jesus confirmed the principle of tithing. [The Law and the Prophets ended with John the Baptist, *Lk 16:16*, and from that time the Kingdom of God was established on earth. *Mat 4:23, 9:35, 10:7, 11:11, 12:28, Lk 12:32, 17:21*. So Jesus comment in *Mat 23:23*, was given after the Law and the Prophets had ended and the Kingdom of God established.]

Abraham Tithed to Melchizedec, *Gen 14:20*.

The Scriptures call Abraham the father of all who believe, *Rom 4:11*, and say that all who believe in Jesus Christ are the children of Abraham, *Gal 3:7,9,14*. Melchizedec is a type of Jesus Christ. He is called, "King of Peace, without father, without mother, without genealogy, having neither beginning of days nor end of life, but made like the Son of God, **remains a priest continually,**" *Heb 7:2,3*. Christ is referred to as "a **priest forever** according to the order of Melchizedec," *Heb 7:17*. Since our father Abraham gave tithes to Melchizedec, who is a strong type of Christ, He set us an example to follow.

[*Heb 7:2, 7:4* says Abraham tithed all the loot and chief spoils to Melchizedec.] [Personally I conclude from *Heb 7:2,3,8,11,16, 17,21,24*, that Melchizedec was an O.T. appearance of Jesus Christ.]

God's Warning Against Failure to Tithe.

The Bible says that if we withhold the tithe we are taking what belongs to God, *Mal 3:8,9*. (The mention of the "curse", I think, is a reference to the law of the tithe under the Mosaic Covenant where the Israelites were commanded to tithe to the Levites). Some may fail to tithe because of not knowing what God's Word teaches, *Mal 3:10*. Some may fail to surrender the area of finances to the Lordship of Christ, *Mat 6:19,21*. Some may fear and have a lack of faith to trust God to supply every need, *Phil 4:19, Mat 6:33*.

Blessings That Come to Those Who Tithe in Faith to God.

a. As we bring all the tithes into the storehouse, God says, "I will open the windows of heaven and pour out My abundant blessing and I will rebuke the devourer," *Mal 3:10,11*.

b. "Honour the Lord with your possessions, and with the firstfruits of all your increase, so your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will overflow with new wine," *Pro 3:9,10*.

c. "He who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully," *2Cor 9:6*.

d. "Give, and it shall be given unto you: good measure, pressed down,.....," *Lk 6:38*.

e. "The generous soul shall be made rich," *Pro 11:25*.

"Bring Your Tithes to the Storehouse," *Mal 3:10*. The "Storehouse" is the place where we are spiritually fed and cared for. It is usually our own local fellowship. However for some, who can not attend a local fellowship, the "Storehouse" may be some other source of spiritual life. Our house bound neighbour tithes to a TV ministry. We can also give freewill offerings beyond the tithe.

Aspects of Tithing. a. Tithe on gross income. If you are self-employed, tithe on the net gain.

b. Tithe before you pay your bills, in faith, believing God's promises to bless you, and the 90% you have left will go a lot further than the 100%. Furthermore God will bless you with unexpected provision.

- c. Tithe when you, “cannot afford to do so,” and believe God to abundantly bless you financially. He will! Not that our motive for tithing is to get rich. This is a wrong motive and needs to be repented of. Give in faith and obedience to God.
- d. If you have not tithed previously, consider and pray about our relationship to Abraham and how he tithed to Melchizedec.
- e. Give the tithe cheerfully, *2Cor 9:7*, in faith. Say, “This is my tithe, this is good seed, I am sowing it in good soil, and I am reaping an abundant harvest,” *Lk 6:38, Ru 2:12, Phil 2:13GNB*.
- f. Record your tithes in a notebook. Be responsible.
- g. Set aside your tithe as soon as you get paid. Do not use it on anything else. Give it to God.
- h. If your husband/wife is not a believer, tithe on the money you personally receive. Explain what you are doing and why.

When you have established the principle of tithing in your life and family, expect the promised blessing of God, and as a result increase your level of giving to far beyond the tithe level. God will prosper you and you will be able to give many times the tithe in an ever increasing way.