

# **FUNDAMENTAL FACTS FOR FAITHFUL FOLLOWERS**

## *Lesson Seven* **TITHING**

What about this matter of tithing? Why are there so many different views by so many different individuals and churches?

Isn't it true that tithing was instituted UNDER THE LAW of Moses, and the entire New Testament is SILENT on this subject?

And if a person is supposed to tithe, WHERE and WHEN would he pay or give that tithe, and HOW MUCH should it be?

I will attempt, with God's Word and God's help, to answer all of these questions.

At this very moment it would be helpful for all of us to develop the attitude that all of the VARIED VIEWS and OPINIONS on this and other Bible truths are just that, views and opinions, unless those views and opinions are SCRIPTURALLY CORRECT.

So now, let us look at the Word of God.

*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 unto the LORD.*

*And if a man will at all redeem ought of his tithes, he shall add thereto the fifth part thereof.*

*And concerning the tithe of the herd, or of the flock, even of whatsoever passeth under the rod, THE TENTH shall be holy unto the LORD.*

*He shall not search whether it be good or bad, neither shall he change it: and if he change it at all, then both it and the change thereof shall be holy; it shall not be redeemed.*

*These are the commandments, which the LORD commanded Moses for the CHILDREN OF ISRAEL in mount Sinai.*

**Leviticus 27:30-34**

It doesn't take us long to run across the doctrine of tithing in the Old Testament.

We see in the preceding scriptures that the tithe BELONGED to the Lord, and was considered to be holy.

If you care to do your own checking on the word **tithe**, you will promptly discover that TITHE means TENTH.

So, God was saying that a TENTH of land, seed, fruit of the tree, the herd, the flock, etc., belonged to God. In fact, He just makes it outright plain, "It is the Lord's."

The scripture goes on to say in this instance if you HOLD BACK your tithe, or BORROW it, you must pay TWENTY PERCENT on the ten percent. Sounds like a stiff penalty to me.

That tithing was commanded under the law of Moses can hardly be denied. In addition to Leviticus 27:30-34, we have a startling question, accusation, and commandment from God in Malachi 3:8-10.

*Will a man rob God? Yet YE HAVE ROBBED ME. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee? In TITHES AND OFFERINGS.*

*Ye are cursed with a curse: for ye have robbed me, even this whole nation.*

*Bring ye ALL the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and PROVE ME now herewith, saith the LORD of hosts, if I will not OPEN YOU the windows of heaven, and POUR YOU OUT a blessing, that there SHALL NOT BE room enough to receive it.*

**Malachi 3:8-10**

Here we have God establishing the truth that to not pay God the tithe is to be a ROBBER, CROOK, or THIEF. He also plainly states THERE IS A CURSE pronounced on the non-tither.

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You will probably notice I usually refer to tithes being **PAID** rather than **GIVEN**. The reason for this is easily seen if you take into account the truth given in Leviticus 27:30-34 and Malachi 3:8-10. How can you give someone something that is **ALREADY HIS**? Also, if you are considered a robber for not bringing in all the tithes, then you certainly could not be considered to be giving a gift if you do bring them in.

I would not go to the electric company, hand them some money along with my bill, and tell them I had come to **GIVE THEM** a gift. No, I was **ONLY PAYING** them what was due them. So it is with the tithes.

We know that tithing was commanded under the law of Moses, but tithing **DID NOT** originate there. It seems tithing has always been **REQUIRED** by God.

The first recorded instance of tithe being paid was by Abram to Melchizedek approximately **430 YEARS BEFORE** the law of Moses was given.

As a class, read Genesis 14:18-20; Hebrews 7:1-9

Several years later, but still **WAY BEFORE** the law of Moses **WAS GIVEN**, Jacob vowed to God to pay tithes.

*And Jacob vowed a vow, saying, If God will be with me, and will keep me in this way that I go, and will give me bread to eat, and raiment to put on,*

*So that I come again to my father's house in peace; then shall the LORD be my God:*

*And this stone, which I have set for a pillar, shall be God's house: and of all that thou shalt give me **I WILL SURELY** give the tenth unto thee. **Genesis 28:20-22***

We find many references to paying tithes throughout the Bible, **39** in all, not counting where it was referred to by the word **tenth** instead of tithe. Tithing is referred to by name seven times in the New Testament. It was also referred to without using the exact word tithe, tithes, or tithing several other times.

WHERE IS THE TITHE TO BE BROUGHT?

*Then Hezekiah commanded to prepare chambers **IN THE HOUSE OF THE LORD**; and they prepared them,*

*And **BROUGHT IN** the offerings and the tithes and the dedicated things faithfully: over which Cononiah the Levite was ruler, and Shimei his brother was the next.*

**2 Chronicles 31:11-12**

*And the priest the son of Aaron shall be with the Levites, when the Levites take tithes: and the Levites shall bring up the tithe of the tithes **UNTO THE HOUSE OF OUR GOD**, to the chambers, into the treasure house. **Nehemiah 10:38***

*Bring ye all the tithes **INTO THE STOREHOUSE**, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the LORD of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it. **Malachi 3:10***

It is easy to see that the tithe is to be **BROUGHT TO GOD'S HOUSE**. In the Old Testament, the **TEMPLE**. In the New Testament, the **CHURCH**.

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### WHAT ABOUT TITHING IN THE NEW TESTAMENT? CHRIST TAUGHT IT!

*Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye pay tithes of mint and anise and cummin, and have omitted the weightier matters of the law, judgment, mercy, and faith: these OUGHT ye to have done, and NOT TO leave the other undone.*

**Matthew 23:23**

*But woe unto you, Pharisees! for ye tithe mint and rue and all manner of herbs, and pass over judgment and the love of God: these ought ye to have done, and NOT TO LEAVE the other undone.*

**Luke 11:42**

*The PHARISEE stood and prayed thus with himself, God, I thank thee, that I am not as other men are, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this publican.*

*I fast twice in the week, I give tithes of all that I possess.*

**Luke 18:11-12**

*For I say unto you, That except your righteousness shall exceed the righteousness of the scribes and PHARISEES, ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven.*

**Matthew 5:20**

Christ plainly teaches that TITHE should be paid, but the OTHER THINGS should not be left undone. **Even hypocrites pay tithes.**

### PAUL TAUGHT IT!

*Thou that sayest a man should not commit adultery, dost thou commit adultery? thou that abhorrest idols, dost thou commit sacrilege?*

**Romans 2:22**

Committing sacrilege here is the same as ROBBING GOD in Malachi 3:10 or using the consecrated things for self.

*Let him that is taught in the word COMMUNICATE UNTO HIM that teacheth in all good things.*

**Galatians 6:6**

The word **communicate** in Galatians 6:6 is from the Greek word **koinoneo**. It refers to the MATERIAL SUPPORT of the ministry.

The next scripture reference is very clearly referring to tithing. In the light of the scripture we have already shared, it should be easily seen by the serious student of the Word. Watch closely.

As a class, read I Corinthians 9:7-14.

*Do ye not know that THEY WHICH MINISTER about holy things LIVE ON THE THINGS of the temple? and they which wait at the altar are PARTAKERS with the altar?*

*EVEN SO hath the Lord ordained that they which PREACH the gospel should LIVE of the gospel.*

**1 Corinthians 9:13-14**

In verse 13 and 14, Paul compares the PREACHER of the GOSPEL in the New Testament to the PRIEST of the TEMPLE in the Old Testament.

Notice in verse 14 that Paul clearly confirms tithing in the New Testament when he says, "EVEN SO hath the Lord ordained that they which preach the gospel should live of the gospel.."

We will talk about believers and the blessing of Abraham in Lesson Eight.