

# **FUNDAMENTAL FACTS FOR FAITHFUL FOLLOWERS**

Lesson Eight

**TITHING** (continued)

Many believers like to claim the blessings of Abraham.

*Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree:*

*That the **BLESSING** of **ABRAHAM** might come on the **GENTILES** through Jesus Christ; that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith. **Galatians 3:13-14***

If we as New Testament believers want to claim to be **CHILDREN** of Abraham by **FAITH**, **WE NEED TO** walk in his steps.

*And the father of circumcision to them who are not of the circumcision only, but who also **WALK IN THE STEPS** of that faith of our father Abraham, which he had being yet uncircumcised. **Romans 4:12***

Tithing is **PROOF** of obedience and **APPRECIATION** of God's blessings.

*Charge them that are **RICH** in this world, that they be not **HIGHMINDED**, nor **TRUST** in uncertain riches, but in the living God, who **GIVETH US RICHLY** all things to enjoy;*

*That they **DO GOOD**, that they be rich in **GOOD WORKS**, ready to **DISTRIBUTE**, willing to **COMMUNICATE**; **1 Timothy 6:17-18***

Let's take a few minutes and find out who are the rich Paul is talking about in I Timothy 6:17,18.

Certainly those who live in America are extremely wealthy compared to those who live in most of the world.

How many in this class have at least one automobile?

How many have at least two automobiles?

How many of our children have a bicycle?

In many countries you will find hundreds of pastors and evangelists who have no car, not even a bicycle. They must walk or secure a ride everywhere they go.

How many women in this class have a pair of shoes? Two pairs? Five pairs? Ten pairs? Twenty? Many women in the U.S.A. have 25 or more pair of shoes while pastors' wives in other countries have only one, or even none. There are many other things we could mention that we just take for granted.

Again, we ask the question, Who are the rich Paul is talking about in I Timothy 6:17,18?

Let's look at the **GENEROSITY** of God in these two verses. Does He say, "Shame on you for having nice things?" No! He says "Who giveth us richly **ALL THINGS TO ENJOY**."

And then He tells us to "Do good, be **RICH** in **GOOD** works, **READY** to distribute (share liberally), **WILLING** to communicate (give liberally)."

As a class read Deuteronomy 8:7-14. Again, does God ask us to walk around with a guilty conscience? No, but He does want us to be **THANKFUL** and **REMEMBER WHERE** the blessings come from.

As a class, read Deuteronomy 8:14-18. The big problem God had with Israel was their **PRIDE** and **ARROGANCY** every time He blessed them.

There are **SPIRITUAL** and **MATERIAL** blessings promised to the tither.

*Honour the LORD with thy substance, and with the firstfruits of all thine increase:*

*So shall thy barns be **FILLED** with plenty, and thy presses shall **BURST OUT** with new wine. **Proverbs 3:9-10***

## Fundamental Facts-Lesson 8 -Page 2

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**

As a class, read Deuteronomy 28:1-8.

Why is there so much confusion and resistance to tithing among today's believers? I believe the answer is obvious. SELFISHNESS!

Many people are too **STINGY** to pay God what they **OWE** Him, but in the end, they do not get to spend the money themselves. The **DOCTOR** or **HOSPITAL** gets it, or the **DIVORCE LAWYER**, or the **MENTAL INSTITUTION**. Consider the following:

As a class read Deuteronomy 28:15,30-33, 43-45. You may want to discuss some of these verses. If so, please do it with kindness and not scornfulness or condemnation of those who are reaping these curses.

I personally consider tithing one of the greatest ways to worship God. I remember seeing a bumper sticker with the slogan, "**IF YOU LOVE JESUS, HONK!**" I say if you love Jesus, tithe. It costs nothing to honk. Any old **LUKEWARM** Christian can lift their hands and mouth a few "hallelujahs" or "praise the Lords", but it **COSTS SOMETHING** to tithe. When a person tithes, that person is giving up the product of his or her strength, talent, or wisdom. They are saying, "Here, God, is one-tenth of a big part of my life."

The person who refuses to pay God the tithe, yet claims to be righteous and holy, is deceiving himself. He has the **FATHER OF ALL SINS** in his heart—**THE LOVE OF MONEY**.

*For the love of money is the **ROOT OF ALL** evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.*

**1 Timothy 6:10**

*As we said before, so say I now again, If any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed.*

**Galatians 1:9**

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