

Answering The Religious Errors Of Our Family, Friends, and Neighbors 1

“Tithing Is The Scriptural Way For The Church To Obtain Money!”

Lesson 22

INTRO:

- A. Tithing remains an important doctrine in many churches, such as the Anabaptist (Mennonites), Baptist, Congregationalist, Catholic, Lutheran, Methodist, Pentecostal, Presbyterian, and Church of Jesus Christ Of Latter-day Saints (Mormons), and Seventh Day Adventist.
 - 1. Tithing was taught at early councils, including the Council of Tours in 567 AD and the Third Council of Mâcon in 585 AD.
- B. Many world religions practice tithing: Islam, Bahai, Hinduism, Sikhism, etc.
- C. Definition: Both the Hebrew and Greek words for “tithe” mean “a tenth”.

D.

QUOTES:

The National Baptist Convention of America teaches that "Baptists believe that a proper sense of stewardship begins with the 'tithe'; a presentation of which belongs to Him. 'The tithe is the Lord's.' We have not given as a result of presenting the tithe. Our giving begins with the offering {after we have tithed}."

The Discipline of The Allegheny Wesleyan Methodist Connection:

“That all our people pay to God at least one-tenth of all their increase as a minimum financial obligation, and freewill offerings in addition as God has prospered them. The tenth is figured upon the tither's gross income in salary or net increase when operating a business.”

The International Pentecostal Holiness Church instructs the faithful that:

“Our commitment to Jesus Christ includes stewardship. According to the Bible everything belongs to God. We are stewards of His resources. Our stewardship of possessions begins with the tithe. All our members are expected to return a tenth of all their income to the Lord.”

The Book of Order of the Presbyterian Church (USA) states:

"Giving has always been a mark of Christian commitment and discipleship. The ways in which a believer uses God's gifts of material goods, personal abilities, and time should reflect a faithful response to God's self-giving in Jesus Christ and Christ's call to minister to and share with others in the world. Tithing is a primary expression of the Christian discipline of stewardship."

I. **WHAT DO THE SCRIPTURES TEACH CONCERNING THE TITHE BEING A SCRIPTURAL WAY FOR THE CHURCH TO OBTAIN MONEY?**

- A. First mention of the tithe is found in **Genesis 14:20** when Abraham paid tithes to Melchizedek “*And blessed be God Most High, Who has delivered your enemies into your hand.*” *And he gave him a tithe of all.*”
 - 1. The next mention of it is when Jacob vows to give “a tenth” to God a few chapters later in **Genesis 28:20-22** “*Then Jacob made a vow, saying, ‘If God will be with me, and keep me in this way that I*

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am going, and give me bread to eat and clothing to put on, so that I come back to my father's house in peace, then the Lord shall be my God. And this stone which I have set as a pillar shall be God's house, and of all that You give me I will surely give a tenth to You.”

- B. Tithing was commanded under the law of Moses to the Jews:
Leviticus 27:30-33 *“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 to the LORD. 31 If a man wants at all to redeem any of his tithes, he shall add one-fifth to it. 32 And concerning the tithe of the herd or the flock, of whatever passes under the rod, the tenth one shall be holy to the LORD. 33 He shall not inquire whether it is good or bad, nor shall he exchange it; and if he exchanges it at all, then both it and the one exchanged for it shall be holy; it shall not be redeemed.”* (Numbers 18:21,24-28; Deuteronomy 12:6-7,11; 14:22,23,28; 26:12; 27:30-34; also see Deut. 5:1-5; 27:34).
1. Tithing that was neglected was rebuked and restored
2 Chronicles 31:12; Nehemiah 10:37-38; 12:44; 13:5,12; Amos 4:4;
Malachi 3:8-10 *“Will a man rob God? Yet you have robbed Me! But you say, 'In what way have we robbed You?' In tithes and offerings. 9 You are cursed with a curse, For you have robbed Me, Even this whole nation. 10 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.”*)
- C. Is Old Testament Tithing Really Practiced Today?
1. Tithing (some of the tithes, not all), offered in the form of money was not 10%, but 12%. (**Leviticus 27:31** *“...add one-fifth to it”*).
 - a. Are denominational leaders requiring 10% or 12%?
 2. Tithing had to be done by the Levites; a tithe of the tithe. (**Numbers 18:25-32**).
 - a. Are denominations leaders giving 10% of all tithes received to someone else?
 3. Tithing every third year was to be given to the sojourner, not just the Levite (**Deuteronomy 14:29; 26:12**).
 - a. Are denominational leaders requiring 10% to be given to those outside their denomination every three years?
 4. Tithing (in addition to the annual sacrifices and other acts of giving like gleaning) was done three times, not just once: 1) a general tithe of all (**Numbers 18:20-28**); 2) a tithe eaten at the tabernacle (**Deuteronomy 12:5-18; 14:22-27**); and 3) a tithe every three years given to the poor and sojourner (**Deuteronomy 14:28-29**).
 - a. Are denominational leaders requiring three tithes, or just one?

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D. Tithing Is No Longer Required.

1. Giving a tenth is certainly permissible, but it is not required, because the law of Moses that required it has been done away in Christ

Colossians 2:14 *“having wiped out the handwriting of requirements that was against us, which was contrary to us. And He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross.”*

Ephesians 2:14-15 *“For He Himself is our peace, who has made both one, and has broken down the middle wall of separation, 15 having abolished in His flesh the enmity, that is, the law of commandments contained in ordinances, so as to create in Himself one new man from the two, thus making peace,”*

2. The law of Moses is not our system of justification or judgment today.

Galatians 5:4 *“Christ is become of no effect unto you, whosoever of you are justified by the law; ye are fallen from grace.”*

Colossians 2:16-17 *“So let no one judge you in food or in drink, or regarding a festival or a new moon or sabbaths, 17 which are a shadow of things to come, but the substance is of Christ.”*

3. Today we are under the law of Christ.

1 Corinthians 9:21 *“To them that are without law, as without law, (being not without law to God, but under the law to Christ,) that I might gain them that are without law.”*

James 1:25 *“But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does.”*

4. We are not under the law of Moses.

Hebrews 8:8-9 *“Because finding fault with them, He says: “BEHOLD, THE DAYS ARE COMING, SAYS THE LORD, WHEN I WILL MAKE A NEW COVENANT WITH THE HOUSE OF ISRAEL AND WITH THE HOUSE OF JUDAH—9 NOT ACCORDING TO THE COVENANT THAT I MADE WITH THEIR FATHERS IN THE DAY WHEN I TOOK THEM BY THE HAND TO LEAD THEM OUT OF THE LAND OF EGYPT; BECAUSE THEY DID NOT CONTINUE IN MY COVENANT, AND I DISREGARDED THEM, SAYS THE LORD.”*

Hebrews 10:9 *“then He said, “BEHOLD, I HAVE COME TO DO YOUR WILL, O GOD.” He takes away the first that He may establish the second.”*

E. What Do We Find Concerning Giving In The New Testament:

1. Giving is regulated by one’s individual ability, not by a pre-determined amount for all.

Acts 11:29 *“Then the disciples, each according to his ability, determined to send relief to the brethren dwelling in Judea.”*

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2. Giving is regulated by the **PROPORTION** of one’s prosperity, not the **PERCENTAGE!**
1 Corinthians 16:2 “Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come.”
 3. Giving comes from a free-will, liberal (generous) offering to the Lord, as one purposes in his heart, not from a specified amount.
2 Corinthians 8:5,12 “And this they did, not as we hoped, but first gave their own selves to the Lord, and unto us by the will of God. 12 For if there be first a willing mind, it is accepted according to that a man hath, and not according to that he hath not.”
2 Corinthians 9:6-9 “But this I say, He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully. 7 Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver. 8 And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work:”
- F. What Do We Learn About Tithing In The New Testament?
1. Yes, Jesus commended tithing.
Matthew 23:23 “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you pay tithe of mint and anise and cummin, and have neglected the weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and faith. These you ought to have done, without leaving the others undone.”; Lk. 11:42)
 2. Yes, the Jews practiced tithing.
Luke 18:12 “...I give tithes of all that I possess.”
 3. Yes, the book of Hebrews mentions tithing.
Hebrews 7:1-2 “For this Melchizedek, king of Salem, priest of the Most High God, who met Abraham returning from the slaughter of the kings and blessed him, 2 to whom also Abraham gave a tenth part of all, first being translated ‘king of righteousness,’ and then also king of Salem, meaning ‘king of peace’,”
Hebrews 7:5 “And indeed those who are of the sons of Levi, who receive the priesthood, have a commandment to receive tithes from the people according to the law, that is, from their brethren, though they have come from the loins of Abraham;”)
 4. However, these examples of tithing come from persons living under the Patriarchal law or the law of Moses!
 5. The question we must ask is: Where is the New Testament command for Christians to tithe?
 - a. Where is the example of New Testament Christians engaged in tithing?

CONCLUSION:

- A. There is no command or example for New Testament Christians to tithe.
- B. Therefore no church can scripturally require it's members to commit to a tithe (tenth).
- C. Like the Sabbath, tithing was commanded under the law of Moses but has been done away with in Christ.