



**TITHES BELONG TO GOD AND THEY
ARE HOLY**

Deut. 26:1-19; Mal. 3:6-14

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INTRODUCTION

- If every church member can give ten percent of his/her income, the church would never lack money for its ministries and missionary work.
- God does not need our money because he owns everything.
- For every animal of the forest is mine, and the cattle on a thousand hills. I know every bird in the mountains, and the creatures of the field are mine. If I were hungry I would not tell you, for the world is mine, and all that is in it”

INTRODUCTION Cont.

- “The earth is the Lord’s and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it” **Psalm24:1**
- He asked us to give a small portion of our income and product we have produced from the land back to Him as an act of worship and obedience.
- **Lev. 27:30** “A tithe of everything from the land whether grain from the soil or fruit from the tree, belongs to the Lord; it is holy”

SCHOOL OF THOUGHTS ABOUT TITHING.

- Some believe that if they are tithing, they have fulfilled their obligation to God and they can do whatever they please with the remaining 90%.
- The other school of thought says that tithing falls under the old law therefore should not be practiced under the New Covenant.

SCHOOL OF THOUGHTS ABOUT TITHING. Cont.

- I will not align myself with either of them but I will simply begin where God started with his own children.
- Both thoughts fail to understand that the New Testament giving goes far beyond tithing.
- **Acts 2:45** “They sold their property and possessions and shared the money with those in need”

SCHOOL OF THOUGHTS ABOUT TITHING. Cont.

- **11 Cor. 8:2-3** “Out of their most severe trial, their overflowing joy and their extreme poverty welled up in rich generosity. For I testify that they gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability. Entirely on their own”.
- Macedonian churches gave more than what Paul was expected from them.
- The point of giving is not how much (amount) we give by why and how we give.

BIBLICAL ORIGIN OF TITHING

- We first learned about offering in **Genesis 4:1-7**
- The Bible does not tell us why God did not accept Cain's offering but we learned about his improper attitude toward his offering.
- Cain's offering did not match God's standard.
- God evaluates our motives and then compares it to our offering.

BIBLICAL ORIGIN OF TITHING Cont.

- Cain denied and rejected God's correction from his mistake in carelessly offering.
- This teaches us that Cain and Abel had been told about sacrifice by their parents.
- There is no giving of tithes until Abraham's era. **Gen. 14:17-20**
- This is the first time the word tithe is mentioned in the Bible and it occurred about 400 years before Mosaic law.

BIBLICAL ORIGIN OF TITHING Cont.

- This is a unique incident and relates to a special person at a right time.
- Abraham gave Melchizedek a tenth of the goods he recovered from war. It was traditional to give one's earnings to the gods.
- The tithes were not coming from Abraham's possessions but from the spoils of war. The tithes came from what he had earned not from his possession. "Then Abraham gave Melchizedek tenth of all the goods he had recovered" **v20; Lev. 27:30**

BIBLICAL ORIGIN OF TITHING Cont.

- Melchizedek was a king of Salem and a priest of the Most High God.
- Melchizedek recognized that God had granted Abraham a miraculous victory.
- The tithing was incorporated into Mosaic law.
- Tithing can be ten percent of anything such as fruit trees, crops from fields, oil, wine, livestock and money. **11 King 22:15-18**

BIBLICAL ORIGIN OF TITHING Cont.

- Jacob vowed to give God ten percent of his possessions. **Gen. 28:20**
- The word “if” in the vow makes the tenth that Jacob said he would pay to be a free will offering and his promise was even conditional.
- The tithing was not in force before the time of Moses.

WHERE TO GIVE OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS.

- God commanded the Israelites to bring tithes into a designated place for worship.
- The place the Lord your God has chosen for his Name to be honored.
- “Put some of the first produce from each crop you harvest into a basket and bring it to the designated place of worship – the place the Lord your God chooses for his name to be honored ” **Deut. 26:2**
- The basket was to be handed over to the priest by the worshipper in the sanctuary.
- “As you harvest your crops, bring the very best of the first harvest to the house of the Lord your God”

WHERE TO GIVE OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS.

Cont.

- “Bring all the tithes into the storehouse so there will be enough food in my temple. If you do, says the Lord of heaven’s armies, I will open the windows of heaven for you. I will pour out a blessing so great you won’t have enough room to take it in! Put me to the test!”

Mal. 3:10

- Israelites were having designated place where tithes were stored.
- The storehouse was a place in the temple for storing grain and other food given as tithes.
- The priests, orphans, widows and strangers lived off of these gift.

WHERE TO GIVE OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS.

Cont.

- The people of Malachi's time ignored God's command to give a tithes of their income to the Temple.
- They may have feared of losing what they have worked so hard to get, but God told them that they are misjudging Him.