

THE TITHING PRINCIPLE

The Tithe in the Old Testament:

The tithe began in the Old Testament before the giving of the Mosaic Law.

- A. Abram and the Tithe. Genesis 14:20ff – Given to Melchizedec (a type of Christ) out of gratitude and thankfulness.
- B. Jacob and the Tithe. Genesis 28:22 – The tithe was thought of as being a part of all the blessings God had given and a means of expressing worship and thankfulness to God.

The tithing principle continued under the Mosaic Law.

- A. The Mosaic Law and the Tithe. Leviticus 27:30-34-The tithe was considered as being Holy unto the LORD. The tithe was received for Him by those whom He had designated as Priests. Failure to tithe was stealing from God, for the tithe belonged to God (Malachi 3:6-10).

The Tithe in the New Testament:

Jesus does not condemn the tithing principle.

- A. Jesus came to fulfill the law. This means that Jesus was a tither.
- B. Jesus taught that one should pay tithes as well as love and practice righteousness (Matthew 23:23)
- C. Luke 11:10-14 shows that tithing was practiced in the days of Jesus.

Pauline indirect references to tithing.

- A. A Steward is required to be faithful (I Corinthians 4:1-2)
- B. The first order of giving is the giving of ourselves to God (II Corinthians 8:5)
- C. The giver is blessed for his/her giving. The one who gives bountifully reaps bountifully. The one who gives sparingly reaps sparingly. Pauline teaching on giving focuses on generous, sacrificial, free, cheerful offerings to God. (II Corinthians 9:6-15)

The book of Hebrews reference to the tithe. Hebrews 7:1-10

REASONS TO TITHE

1. Tithing has all the values of proportionate giving. Tithing means that one takes God into account when he/she is spending. Tithing ensures that a definite amount is set aside for the spread of the gospel.
2. Tithing gives joy to those who practice the principle.
3. Tithing ensures systematic and orderly giving.
4. Tithing increases the financial standing of the Kingdom's enterprise
The tithe is Holy unto the Lord
The tither is obedient to God
The tither enters into partnership with God
5. The tithe ensures equality in giving. Each person is asked to give 10% of his/her substance.
6. Giving the tithe shows one as a thankful witness to God for His blessings.
7. The tither shows his/her obedience to God's sovereignty. Tithing acknowledges God's ownership of our lives.
8. Tithing enriches the life of the person who tithes. (Proverbs 3:9-10; Proverbs 11:25; Luke 6:38)
9. Tithing frees one from the sin of covetousness. To be stingy is to be covetous and to be covetous is great sin. (Luke 12:15)
- 10 Tithing is a way of laying up treasures in heaven (Matthew 6:20-21)
- 11 Tithing is a clear manifestation of one's interest in the Church of Jesus Christ.
- 12 Tithing helps the Church to carry out the Great Commission. (Matthew 28:19-20)