



Tithing

Stewardship is part of everyday living. It involves a complete transformation of mans life. The only way this is possible is to heed God’s request, *“My son, give me thine heart, and let thine eyes observe my ways.”* **Prov 23:26**. It is when Christ dwells in the heart by faith that a person’s thoughts and various habits of life will be brought into conformity to the standards as set forth in the Scriptures.

The stewardship of money involves God’s claim upon our finances. Let us inquire, *“What shall I render unto the Lord for all his benefits toward me?”* **Ps 116:12**. The spirit of giving is the spirit of heaven. No selfish person will ever enter heaven. There are three kinds of givers—the flint, the sponge, and the honeycomb. You must hammer the flint to get chips and sparks only. You must squeeze the sponge to get water. But the honeycomb just overflows with its own sweetness. Let us determine not to be like the flint, stingy and hard, not like the sponge, which must be pressed to give. We ought o be like the honeycomb, for the Bible says, *“God loveth a cheerful giver.”* **2 Cor. 9:7**.

We must remember that it is by the power of God that wealth is obtained. *“But thou shalt remember the Lord thy God: for it is he that giveth thee power to get wealth, that he may establish his covenant which he sware unto thy fathers, as it is this day.”* **Deut 8:18**.

All of the wealth that we receive from the Lord, belongs to Him including us. *“The earth is the Lord’s, and the fulness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein.”* **Ps 24:1**; *“Know ye that the Lord he is God: it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.”* **Ps 100:3**; *“For every beast of the forest is mine, and the cattle upon a thousand hills. ¹¹ I know all the fowls of the mountains: and the wild beasts of the field are mine.”* **Ps 50:10-11**; *“The silver is mine, and the gold is mine, saith the Lord of hosts.”* **Hag 2:8**.

Let’s examine how much of our income is holy unto the Lord. *“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. ³¹ And if a man will at all redeem ought of his tithes, he shall add thereto the fifth part thereof. ³² 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.”* **Lev 27:30-32**.

“To whom also Abraham gave a tenth part of all; first being by interpretation King of righteousness, and after that also King of Salem, which is, King of peace; ⁴ Now consider how great this man was, unto whom even the patriarch Abraham gave the tenth of the spoils.” **Heb 7:2, 4**

What is a tithe? The Bible says Abram pursued the kings who had plundered Sodom and Gomorrah. When he returned, the Bible indicates he gave tithes of all. *“And he blessed him, and said, Blessed be Abram of the most high God, possessor of heaven and earth: ²⁰ And blessed be the most high God,*

which hath delivered thine enemies into thy hand. And he gave him tithes of all.” Gen 14:19-20. In Hebrews 7:2, 4 (verse above) it is explained that he gave a tenth.

Some reserve what is left over for the Lord and others have felt they do not have to tithe because it takes all they make to pay their bills. That is a mistake. When the tithe is given to God first, the nine-tenths will be blessed of God. The Bible teaches we are to take off of the top for God, and the result will be that our nine-tenths will be multiplied. **Prov 3:9-10** *“Honour the Lord with thy substance, and with the firstfruits of all thine increase: ¹⁰ So shall thy barns be filled with plenty, and thy presses shall burst out with new wine.”*

The Lord requires something in addition to the tithe. *“Give unto the Lord the glory due unto his name: bring an offering, and come into his courts.” Ps 96:8.* An offering is no certain amount. The offering is given according as God has prospered. *“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.” 1 Cor 16:2.*

“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 Cor 8:12.

“Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver.” 2 Cor 9:7.

We owe God a tithe. The offering is given to God out of the portion He gives us. In tithing we fulfill a duty, whereas, in giving an offering we show our appreciation for God’s many blessings.

We do not want to tithe for the blessings, but the Bible promises that blessings are pronounced on those who are faithful in returning to God that which is His. *“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. ¹¹ And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, and he shall not destroy the fruits of your ground; neither shall your vine cast her fruit before the time in the field, saith the Lord of hosts. Mal 3:10-11.*

At the same time those who are unfaithful in tithes and offerings can expect something also, but not blessings. *“Ye are cursed with a curse: for ye have robbed me, even this whole nation.” Mal 3:9.*

What was the tithe to be used for? *“And, behold, I have given the children of Levi all the tenth in Israel for an inheritance, for their service which they serve, even the service of the tabernacle of the congregation.” Num 18:21.*

Although there are no longer Levites serving in the tabernacle, the principle, purpose and use of the tithe is to be used in the same manner today; the ministry today should be supported from the tithe. *“Do ye not know that they which minister about holy things live of the things of the temple? and they which wait at the altar are partakers with the altar? ¹⁴ Even so hath the Lord ordained that they which preach the gospel should live of the gospel.” 1 Cor 9:13-14.*

While Christ was upon the earth He endorsed the tithing system when addressing the Pharisees. *“Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye pay tithe 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.” Matt 23:23.*

Our tithe is to go into the storehouse for the furtherance of the gospel. *“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.” Mal 3:10.

The storehouse means the treasuries of God’s church. In the days of Nehemiah, it was the duty of the treasurer to distribute the tithe to support God’s ministers. *“Then brought all Judah the tithe of the corn and the new wine and the oil unto the treasuries. ¹³ And I made treasurers over the treasuries, Shelemiah the priest, and Zadok the scribe, and of the Levites, Pedaiah: and next to them was Hanan the son of Zaccur, the son of Mattaniah: for they were counted faithful, and their office was to distribute unto their brethren.” Neh 13:12-13.*

In nature some things multiply by dividing. Some cells increase by splitting. Plants multiply only when the seeds are sown liberally. A farmer who sows sparingly reaps sparingly. It is the same in God’s kingdom. We should tithe our income because we love God and in acknowledgement of God’s ownership of all things. We are dependent upon God for all our blessings, and He bestows them in numberless ways.