



## Biblical Stewardship

### What The Bible Says About Giving

Pastor George Stahnke 02/05/1997

**Introduction:** It's important to understand the biblical principle of giving. Repeatedly the Bible associates our money with our commitment and walk with the Lord.

**Matthew 6:19-21** Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal.<sup>20</sup> But store up for yourselves treasure in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and thieves do not break in and steal.<sup>21</sup> For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Storing up treasures in heaven is not limited to tithing and giving alone but by all acts of obedience to God. There is a sense in which giving our money to God's work is like investing in heaven.

While teaching on giving may be uncomfortable for some, it is important for all. As in every area of our lives, we seek to be principle driven. The area of financial giving should be no different. It is my hope that you will be encouraged and that through your obedience greatly blessed!

### 430 years before the Law

Some would teach that to tithe 10% is legalistic. They say, "We are not under the Old Testament Law." In the book of Genesis we have two examples of tithing 430 years before the law was given to Moses: Abraham who was wealthy and Jacob who was poor (at that time).

**Hebrews 7:4-6** Just think how great he was: Even the patriarch Abraham gave him a tenth of the plunder! <sup>5</sup>Now the law requires the descendants of Levi who become priests to collect a tenth from the people--that is, their brothers--even though their brothers are descended from Abraham. <sup>6</sup>This man, however, did not trace his descent from Levi, yet he collected a tenth from Abraham and blessed him who had the promises. (Compare Gen. 14:17-20)

**Genesis 28:20-22** Then Jacob made a vow, saying, "If God will be with me and will watch over me on this journey I am taking and will give me food to eat and clothes to wear <sup>21</sup> so that I return safely to my father's house, then the LORD will be my God <sup>22</sup> and this stone that I have set up as a pillar will be God's house, and of all that you give me I will give you a tenth."

### Tithing and giving under the Law

There were three types of tithes and additional giving mentioned in the Law.

- The Lord's Tithe (levitical tithe): for the support of the priesthood. This tithe included one tenth of all possessions, nothing was exempt (Lev. 27:30-33, Num. 18:21-32).
- The Second Tithe: was a thankful recognition, devotion and worship of God. This tithe was to be a feast eaten with family reminding them of God's requirement for liberal, systematic, conscientious giving and maintaining the fear of the Lord (Duet. 14:22-27). Those who find it difficult to give also find devotion, thankfulness and worship to God difficult. Times of spiritual renewal were also times of renewed commitment to tithing and giving (2 Chr.31:5-12, Neh. 10:37-38; 12:44; 13:5,22).

# RENEWAL MINISTRIES

## of Colorado Springs

- The Third Tithe: to care for the widows, fatherless, strangers, and Levites. Given every three years with the promise of blessing to the giver (Deut. 14:28-29).
- Additional Giving: this was giving over and about the tithe to help meet the needs of the poor and strangers (Lev. 19:9-10, Deut. 24:19-21, Ruth 2:2-17).

**Haggai 1:5-7** Now this is what the LORD Almighty says: "Give careful thought to your ways. <sup>6</sup>You have planted much, but have harvested little. You eat, but never have enough. You drink, but never have your fill. You put on clothes, but are not warm. You earn wages, only to put them in a purse with holes in it." <sup>7</sup>This is what the LORD Almighty says: "Give careful thought to your ways.

**Malachi 3:7-11** Ever since the time of your forefathers you have turned away from my decrees and have not kept them. Return to me, and I will return to you," says the LORD Almighty. "But you ask, 'How are we to return?' <sup>8</sup>"Will a man rob God? Yet you rob me. "But you ask, 'How do we rob you?' "In tithes and offerings. <sup>9</sup>You are under a curse--the whole nation of you--because you are robbing me. <sup>10</sup>Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this," says the LORD Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it. <sup>11</sup>I will prevent pests from devouring your crops, and the vines in your fields will not cast their fruit," says the LORD Almighty.

### New Testament Tithing and Giving

The chief passage in the New Testament is 2 Cor. 7- 9. Here Paul encourages the Christians to excel in their giving by following Christ's example.

**2 Corinthians 8:7-9** But just as you excel in everything--in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in your love for us--see that you also excel in this grace of giving. <sup>8</sup>I am not commanding you, but I want to test the sincerity of your love by comparing it with the earnestness of others. <sup>9</sup>For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich.

**1 Corinthians 9:13-14** Don't you know that those who work in the temple get their food from the temple, and those who serve at the altar share in what is offered on the altar? <sup>14</sup>In the same way, the Lord has commanded that those who preach the gospel should receive their living from the gospel.

**Romans 12:13** Share with God's people who are in need. Practice hospitality.

**Matthew 23:23** "Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrite! You give a tenth of your spices—mint, dill and cumin. But you have neglected the more important matters of the law—justice, mercy and faithfulness. You should have practiced the latter, without neglecting the former.

Jesus commends the Pharisees on their tithing while condemning them on other issues. No where did Jesus or the Apostles teach the abolishment of the tithe in the New testament.

### As Christians How should we give?

- Cheerfully not reluctantly: **2 Corinthians 9:7** Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.
- Sacrificially: **Luke 21:1-4** As he looked up, Jesus saw the rich putting their gifts into the temple treasury. <sup>2</sup>He also saw a poor widow put in two very small copper coins. <sup>3</sup>"I tell you the truth," he said, "this poor widow has put in more than all the others. <sup>4</sup>All these people gave their gifts out of their wealth; but she out of her poverty put in all she had to live on."
- Simply & Systematically: **1 Corinthians 16:2a** On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with his income...

While taking up a collection does not usually bother Christians, it can be offensive to those who are untaught or unbelievers. This is one of the reasons we have provided tithe/offering boxes in the front and rear of the sanctuary. Occasionally we will take up "special offerings" for guest speakers, missions, etc.

# RENEWAL MINISTRIES

## of Colorado Springs

### Extraordinary promises applicable to faithful tithing and giving

**Malachi 3:10** Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this," says the LORD Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it.

**Proverbs 3:9** (Living) Honor the Lord by giving him the first part of all your income, and he will fill your barns with wheat and barley and overflow your wine vats with the finest wines.

**Luke 6:38** Give and it shall be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you."

**Hebrews 6:10** God is not unjust; he will not forget your work and the love you have shown him as you have helped his people and continue to help them.

**The day the church treasurer resigned.** . . . the church asked the local grain elevator manager to take the position. He agreed under two conditions. That no treasurer's report would be given for the first year. That no questions be asked about finances during that year. The people were surprised but finally agreed since most of them did business with him and he was a trusted man. At the end of the year he gave his report:

- The church indebtedness of \$228,000 has been paid.
- The minister's salary had been increased by 8%.
- There were no outstanding bills.
- And there was a cash balance of \$11,252!

Immediately the shocked congregation asked, "How did you do it? Where did the money come from?"

He quietly answered: "Most of you bring your grain to my elevator. Throughout the year I simply withheld ten percent on your behalf and gave it to the church in your name. You didn't even miss it!"

"Do you see what we could do for the Lord if we were all willing to give at least the tithe to God, who really owns it?" And so the new treasurer had made his point.

As Christians we are committed to biblical principles that give direction for our lives. Clearly Old and New Testament scriptures firmly establish the principle of honoring God with your wealth. Tithing 10% to your local church is where we start not where we end up. Giving to meet the needs of the poor, missions or other worthwhile charities are in addition to the giving to your church.

- Are you satisfied with your current giving?
- Does your giving reflect biblical teaching?
- Does your giving reflect your love of the Lord?
- Does your current giving reflect your commitment to the Lord's work?
- What changes do you intend to make after reading this teaching?

**Hebrews 13:16** And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased.

**Acts 20:35b** remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: "it is more blessed to give than to receive."