
GIVING

LESSON SEVEN

Oftentimes one of the most difficult principles for new Christians to accept is the fact that, along with the promises and privileges that are ours, there are also a number of very vital responsibilities. All of these responsibilities are based upon the concept of gratefulness to Christ for what He has done for us. Also involved is the fact that Jesus wants to be more than our Savior: He wants to be Lord of our lives. When we receive Jesus, not only do we receive a new life, a new nature, and become heirs of a new destiny (Heaven instead of Hell), we also acknowledge a new Master -- Jesus rather than Satan. Jesus Christ becomes our Savior, our Lord, our Master, our Guide.

Having received Christ, God makes us "partners" with Him. This new partnership with Christ requires that we learn to give God a "tithe", or one-tenth of our income. The Bible says that *"all the tithe is the Lord's"* (Lev. 27:30). The people of God were commanded, *"Bring...all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith...if I will not open the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it"* (Mal. 3:10). In the New Testament we are told, *"God loveth a cheerful giver,"* and that when we give willingly, 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"* (II Cor. 9:7,8).

The following pages contain a lesson on tithing developed by Dr. Richard Worsham of the Baptist Temple in Holbrook, MA. It is taken from Malachi 3:8-12.

FOUR THINGS GOD SAYS ABOUT THE TITHE:

God's Purpose for the Tithe

- A. To provide for the work of God's people (Read Mal. 3:10)
 - 1. the worship of God
 - 2. the widows and orphans
 - 3. the needs of God's people

- B. To prove the faithfulness of God (Mal. 3:10)
When we give, we allow God to show how much He can bless us.

- C. To pay honor to God

God's Plan for the Tithe

- A. What are we to give (how much)?
The tithe means "a tenth" (or 10%). God is no more impressed if a man gives \$500.00 from an income of \$5000.00 or if a man gives \$5.00 from an income of \$50.00. In God's eyes both gifts are equal. Read Mark 12:41-44.

- B. Where is it to be given?
Read Malachi 3:10 again. "Bring ye all the tithes into the _____, that there may be meat in mine house..." New Testament saints bring their tithes and offerings to the storehouse (treasury) of their local church.

- C. When are we to give? (Read I Cor. 16:1,2)
 - 1. Which day of the week _____
 - 2. Paul gave order to give _____

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3. What phrase is used in verse 2 that tells how much each person should give _____

The Problem of Failing to Tithe

- A. Failing to tithe is dishonest (Read Mal. 3:8)
Read Lev. 27:30 -- Write out the last nine words of the verse: _____

- B. Failure to tithe dishonors God (Read Mal. 1:6-8;12,13; Prov. 3:9)
The people brought their leftovers to God -- their sick and diseased animals.
- C. Failure to tithe denies our responsibility to God (Mal. 1:6; 2:17; 3:7,8; 13)
Notice how many questions the people asked God and why they asked those questions.

The Promise Given by God to Those Who Tithe

Read Malachi 3:10b

- A. He will prosper us (Read Proverbs 3:10)
B. There will be plenty (Read John 10:10; Eph. 3:20)
C. He will protect us and our belongings (Read Malachi 3:11)
D. We will have a powerful, personal testimony of the blessings of God (Read Luke 6:38)

"Every good and every perfect gift" comes from God. Every Christian ought to be more than willing to give back a part of that which He gives to us!!
