

Why Tithe?

Tithe is another word for giving 10% of your earnings. The tithe is a command from God that His people give a tenth of their earnings for the expansion of His Kingdom on earth, and this command has not gone away from the Law given to Moses. "But Pastor you are a legalist now!" Obeying God is not legalism, it is the obedience of faith that leads us to give what God commands. Trying to manipulate God through my obedience is a merit mentally that we should all deny, and legalism is an outward obedience for men to see and to gain their approval. Christians should do neither. We love God and obey Him.

The tithe is not just "a good start" it is the minimum requirement of obedience. Through Jesus the Law is not abolished but brought to its proper place. What is done away with is the *condemnation* of the Law, not the need to obey God according to His Word. This is, after all, part of the Great Commission.

The tithe is often assumed to be directly brought upon the covenant through the Law of Moses, and therefore, the reasoning goes, it is no longer binding on the church today. This sort of thinking is wrongheaded. We ought to remember that the Law does not belong to Moses. God gave it to His people through the mediator, Moses. It is God's Law. Secondly, the tithe was present *before* God delivered the Law to Moses, like the Sabbath, and like circumcision.

The tithe in the book of Genesis goes all the way back to Melchizedek, and Abraham is the one who gave it. Abraham gives Melchizedek a tenth, a tithe, of everything and Melchizedek blesses Abraham with bread and wine.

Now, we are told that Melchizedek is a type of Christ in Hebrews 7:1-4, a shadow, or prefigure, of the real Messiah, and we see here that a tithe was given to him. Now that the real thing is here, are we not going to give anything to Him? Aren't we sons of Abraham (Galatians 3)? Abraham gave a tithe to Melchizedek and thus all of Israel did for Jacob was yet in his loins, as was Levi (Hebrews 7:4-10).

This Melchizedek who was the King of Righteousness of the city of Peace is a foreshadow of Jesus Christ, and Abraham, before the Law was given through Moses, gave a tithe. Now, Jesus is here the true King of Righteousness, and churches want to argue that the tithe belongs to the Law of Moses, not to the covenant with Jesus. Jesus is the new Melchizedek, and we owe our allegiance to the Melchizedekian Priest-King. Like Abraham our father, we ought to give a tithe. The tithe has not gone anywhere, it has always belonged to Christ.

Galatians 3:29, "And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to the promise." Do you belong to Christ? Then you are son or daughter of Abraham, and as children of Abraham we are to have the faith of Abraham. The faith of Abraham tithed to Melchizedek, and Jesus is the new Melchizedek, so what do you think we ought to do with our money?

And there is more evidence of the tithe remaining. 1 Corinthians 9:12-14, "If others are partakers of this right over you, are we not even more? Nevertheless we have not used this right, but endure all things lest we hinder the gospel of Christ. Do you not know that those who minister the holy things eat of the things of the temple, and those who serve at the altar partake of the offerings of the altar? Even so [[in like manner]] the Lord has commanded that those who preach the gospel should live from the gospel."

Here we have the tithe from the Law, which is the means by which the priests and the Temple were funded in the old covenant, carried over into the church. Paul says that just as the priests were taken care of by the tithe in their priestly duties, in like manner the ministers and functions of the church are taken care of and receive their support by the tithe of the people. They are to be paid like the priests. Levitical priests and teachers were supported by the tithe, and so Christian ministers and the ministry of the church should be supported in the same way.

Beyond the tithe there is the freewill offering. This offering is not commanded but goes beyond the tithe. This sort of giving is expressed in 2 Corinthians 8-9. The freewill offering is given of your own free will. It does not have to go to the church, but it may, and this is why the minister says some variation of the following, "Let us continue to worship by giving to God His tithes and our offerings."