

TOPIC: THE PRINCIPLE OF THE TITHE

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SUMMARY OF MESSAGE

What is a tithe?

Tithe refers to the tenth part of agriculture produce or personal income set apart as an offering to God or for works of mercy, or the same amount regarded as an obligation or tax for the support of the church, priests, or the likes.

1. Of all (100%) that God has given us, He only asks His people to pay the Tithe.

God stipulates how much our tithe must be (Lev 27:26-32, Deut 14:22.23)

Lev 27:32

'And concerning the tithe of the herd or the flock, of whatever passes under the rod, the tenth one shall be holy to the LORD.'

2. The tithe is the first 10% of our income and increase of whatever the Lord has given to us.

Examples:

*Salary

*Inheritance

*Bonuses

*Fees

*Income

*Gains from Sale of Assets

*Commission

3. When we tithe, God will sanctify the remaining 90% of what we have received, protecting them from the devourer.

Malachi 3:11

"And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, so that he will not destroy the fruit of your ground, nor shall the vine fail to bear fruit for you in the field," says the LORD of hosts.

Matthew 6:20

'But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal.'

Where moth or rust destroys our treasures, it speaks of us not having the blessings.

Haggai 1:5-6.

5 Now therefore, thus says the LORD of hosts: "Consider your ways! 6 "You have sown much, and bring in little; you eat, but do not have enough; you drink, but you are not filled with drink; you clothe yourselves, but no one is warm; and he who earns wages, earns wages to put into a bag with holes."

Notice the consequences – they are put into bags of holes. In what forms would these take shape? Some examples are your house air-con breaking down earlier than expected; unexpected repair works, unexpected expenses being incurred, etc. The devourer could come in such manner. See also Haggai 1:9-11 which talks about closed heavens.

Perspective on Tithing

- Tithing is not taking a tenth of our own money and giving it to God.
- It is returning a tenth of what was already His to begin with.
- We are merely stewards of God's property.
- Thus we are robbing when we fail to return the tithe.

4. We are to bring the entire tithe to the storehouse where we are fed the Word.

This is usually the local church i.e. *BBTC*.

- A. We are to bring our tithe because it belongs to the Lord.
- B. We are to bring all into the storehouse.

Malachi 3:10

"Bring all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be food in My house, and try Me now in this," says the LORD of hosts, "If I will not open for you the windows of heaven and pour out for you such blessing that there will not be room enough to receive it ."

Anything above the tithe is our OFFERING. God leaves it up to us as to the size of our offering.

5. Tithes, offerings and alms.

A. Tithes are usually made to the local church where you are fed the Word of God. i.e. *BBTC* – where you are personally plugged into the body-life.

B. Offerings are freewill and made to the Lord for the work of God and this can be channeled to:-

- i. The Local Church i.e. *BBTC*
- ii. Mission Agencies like *NTM, YWAM, Pioneers, etc.*

C. Look for opportunities to give alms to the relatively poor and the needy, beginning with our families and *BBTC*. (Galatians 6:10)

How to give alms to the relatively poor and needy? Examples:

- | | | | |
|-------------------|----------------|---------------------|----------------|
| *Food | *Utility Bills | *Transport Fares | *School Fees |
| *Pay for Expenses | *Allowance | *Buy school uniform | *Buy appliance |

Matthew 10:8 says that freely ye have received, so freely give. See also Gal 2:10

6. Question: Is tithing a part of the law/OT which is now outmoded?

A. Answer: NO! Tithing was instituted way before the law. In Genesis 14:18-20, Abram gave Melchizedek a tithe of all.

B. The Lord Jesus Himself said that men ought to tithe and added that we should also practise justice, mercy and faith. See Matthew 23:23

C. In the New Testament, the tithe is affirmed with reference to its first practice in Heb 7:1-2. The New Testament affirmed what was done in the Old Testament.

Hebrews 7:1-2

1 For this Melchizedek, king of Salem, priest of the Most High God, who met Abraham returning from the slaughter of the kings and blessed him, 2 to whom also Abraham gave a tenth part of all ...

D. Our tithe is today still accepted by our Lord Jesus Who lives forevermore! Heb 7:8

The Theophany of Jesus:

Hebrews 7:8 (NKJV)

Here mortal men receive tithes, but there He [The Lord Jesus] receives them, of whom it is witnessed that He lives.

Hebrews 7:8 (NLT)

The priests who collect tithes are men who die, so Melchizedek is greater than they are, because we are told that He [The Lord Jesus] **lives** on.

Melchizedek is greater than the Aaronic priest because we are told that HE the Lord Jesus lives on.

Hebrews 7:15-17

15 This change has been made very clear since a different priest, who is like Melchizedek, has appeared. 16 Jesus became a priest, not by meeting the physical requirement of belonging to the tribe of Levi, but by the power of a life that cannot be destroyed. 17 And the psalmist pointed this out when he prophesied, "You are a priest forever in the order of Melchizedek."

The book of Hebrews tells us that Abram gave to Melchizedek, implying that he gave to Jesus.

7. Intentionally give and sow your tithes and offerings with prayer.

2 Corinthians 9:5-7

5 ...exhort the brethren to go to you ahead of time, and prepare your generous gift beforehand, which you had previously promised, that it may be ready as a matter of generosity and not as a grudging obligation. 6 But this I say: He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. 7 So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver.

One major root problem of people who are in financial problem is that they do not tithe.

2 Corinthians 9:9-10

9As it is written: "He has dispersed abroad, He has given to the poor; His righteousness endures forever." 10Now may He who supplies seed to the sower, and bread for food, supply and multiply the seed you have sown and increase the fruits of your righteousness...

We have to learn to receive and give and repeat the cycle so that we can continue to sow.

2 Corinthians 9:11-13

11 while you are enriched in everything for all liberality, which causes thanksgiving through us to God. 12 For the administration of this service not only supplies the needs of the saints, but also is

abounding through many thanksgivings to God, 13 while, through the proof of this ministry, they glorify God for the obedience of your confession to the gospel of Christ, and for your liberal sharing with them and all men.

From above, we are enriched so that we may be generous to others and let others abound with thanksgiving to God and that eventually, God be magnified.

8. Tithing is our response of love to honour God.

- Salvation is 100% by the grace of God.
- We can do absolutely nothing to earn it.
- But, after we are saved, God said that: “none shall appear before Him empty-handed.”

Deuteronomy 16:16

16 Three times a year all your males shall appear before the LORD your God in the place which He chooses: at the Feast of Unleavened Bread, at the Feast of Weeks, and at the Feast of Tabernacles; and they shall not appear before the LORD empty-handed.

How do we honor someone special?

- ✓ Guest of Honour - Minister - MP
- ✓ People in Authority - Boss - Spiritual Leader
- ✓ Parent - Husband - Wife

Proverbs 3:9

Honor the LORD with your possessions, and with the first-fruits of all your increase.

The tithes and offerings we bring is one way we honor and love Him! Matthew 2:11; Psalm 24:7-10

Topic: The Principle of the Tithe

Questions for discussion

1) What is your understanding of tithing and why do we need to tithe? Has the message broadened or given you a fresh perspective?

2) Do we expect God to bless us financially just because we tithe? Discuss.

3) 2 Cor 9:7 says 'So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity, for God loves a cheerful giver.' What would make our giving meaningful and purposeful or otherwise a sowing done in vain? Share your thoughts.

4) How do you think our treasures could be eaten by moth or be corroded away by rust? What would your advice be for someone caught in such plight?

5) Check up Matthew 23:23. Are there some things weightier than tithing? What do you think this verse is trying to tell us? How does it tie up with Mark 12:31?

6) Would you consider giving tithes and making offerings as acts of worship? Discuss.

No condemnation, no comparison, no competition but only encouragement...