

## TITHING

### Tithing: A Love Issue

**FOUNDATION STATEMENT:** It's imperative in tithing that your motive is pure and right. When the motive is wrong perversion, misuse, and destruction will result. With a right motive, tithing will be used properly and bring about great benefits in your life.

#### I. The things written in the Old Testament were written for our learning

- A. Romans 15:4-We're learning from those things written aforetime
- B. 1 Corinthians 9:7-14-There things that the law says that has to do with us and there are things the law has to say that doesn't have to do with us; such as making sacrifices
  - 1. 10-He's talking about the tithe, the giving and he's using old covenant scriptures and says it was written for our sakes also
  - 2. 10-I guess some people wouldn't receive the apostle Paul's teaching on tithing because he used and OT Scripture
- C. 1 Corinthians 10:11-They were written for an example unto us and for our admonition

#### II. Two systems of tithing 1) Tithing under the Law 2) Tithing under the Abrahamic Covenant

- A. Tithing under the Law there was a commandment to tithe
  - 1. In tithing under the Law they were commanded to tithe; there was no choice of whether or not to tithe (Leviticus 27:30-34, Numbers 18:21-28, Deut 14:22-23)
- B. Tithing under the Abrahamic Covenant there was no commandment to tithe
  - 1. Gal 3:17-The law of tithing came 430 years after God made covenant w/ Abraham
  - 2. Genesis 14:14-23-There was no law or commandment for Abraham to tithe
    - a. This was no law or commandment for Abraham to tithe
    - b. The tithing Abraham did had nothing to do with the law; this was before that
- C. Gen 17:7-The Abrahamic Covenant was an everlasting covenant to him & to his seed
  - 1. Gal 3:29-We're Abraham's seed and that covenant is still with us
  - 2. If tithing is a part of the covenant relationship between God and Abraham and we are Abraham's seed and a part of that covenant, then tithing should be a part of our covenant relationship with God
- D. We're not under the law, but neither was Abraham
  - 1. When Abraham was free from the law & had no commandment to tithe, he tithed
    - a. Rom 7:1-6-We're free from the law (the law of tithing), but so was Abraham
  - 2. Tithing is a part of the Abrahamic Covenant
    - a. We want to be free from the law; not from the covenant God made w/ Abraham

- b. If tithing is part of the Abrahamic Covenant it shouldn't make a difference that you read about it in the OT: this is an everlasting covenant that transcends and breaks the boundaries of the New Covenant
- E. The principle of tithing was originated by God in the beginning with Adam
  - 1. Genesis 2:16-17-All the trees that God gave man to eat and the ones He told them not to eat was a **type and shadow** of the ten percent and the ninety percent
    - a. Setting aside a tree and telling man he couldn't eat of it was God's idea and it was good; This is God's perfect will for all men for all time
    - b. This was before Abraham, before the Law, before Jesus, and here we have God **establishing the principle of tithing** in the Garden
  - 2. Cain & Able knew about tithing; it was passed down by Adam or revealed by God
    - a. This tithing of Abraham was either passed down from Adam or revealed by God because there was no law and writings about it
    - b. Jacob tithed long before the law was given to Moses (Genesis 28:19-22, 31:13)
  - 3. The tithe was before the law, it was all during the law it was all after the law, & tithing is forever

### III. Abraham's Tithing vs. Tithing Under the Law

- A. Jesus is our High Priest after the order of Melchizedek (Hebrews 5:10, 6:20)
  - 1. Melchizedek was symbolic of a "type" of Jesus (Hebrews 7:3-4-His description)
    - a. Order-Arrangement, fashion, style, quality, character, post
  - 2. If we want to find out about Jesus' priesthood, then we have to find out how Melchizedek's priesthood operated; What Melchiz did for them, Jesus does for us
    - a. The only thing that we see Melchizedek do in the Word of God was receive Abraham's tithe and bless Him (Hebrews 7:1-2)
    - b. Here's the order of Melchizedek: Abraham had the tithe to give to the High Priest, the High Priest received the tithe and released the blessing
  - 3. Jesus is our High Priest **FOREVER** after the order of Melchizedek; that transcends and surpasses the NT and continues today
    - a. Our relationship with Jesus as High Priest should follow the order of Abraham & Melchizedek
    - b. The relationship was this: Abraham had the tithe, with no law or command to tithe, brought the tithe to Melchizedek, Melchizedek received the tithe and released the blessing in Abraham's life
- B. The Levitical Priests had a commandment in the law to take tithes (Hebrews 7:5)
  - 1. 7:6-Melchizedek didn't have Levitical ancestry, but received Abraham's tithe
- C. 7:9,10-Before they made commandment to tithe these guys were tithing in Abraham
- D. 7:11-If it was good the way it was, where the Levites received the tithe, why did another High Priest (Jesus) after the order of Melchizedek have to arise

1. Jesus wasn't called a high priest after the order of Aaron, commanding people to tithe, because after the order of Aaron they commanded people to tithe
- E. 7:12-The priesthood changed, so then the law has to change also
1. There's no law of tithing again, like there was no law of tithing in Abraham's day
- F. 7:13-17-Jesus is our High Priest after the order of Melchizedek
1. He has no lineage to the Levites; he was born out of the tribe of Judah and there was no priests in connection with that tribe
  2. It's not the physical requirements that put him in that position (like it was under the law), but he's in that position because he has the power of an endless life
- G. 7:18-The law including the law tithing has been disannulled, but tithing hasn't been disannulled
1. There was no law of tithing in Abraham's day, but there was tithing
  2. 19-The law made tithing imperfect because under the law people tithed because they had to and not because they loved God
  3. Jesus didn't command people to tithe because that was imperfect
    - a. 2 Corinthians 3:6-The letter kills, but the spirit gives life

#### **IV. Tithing is not a money issue, it is a love issue**

- A. What's your motive? We've been tithing with the wrong motive
1. Matt 22:36-Your tithe works by love and if you tithe because you have to, instead of because of you love for God there's no power in it
    - a. The reason why he didn't command us to tithe in the gospels is because he came with something greater than the commandment to tithe, he came with the love of God and if you'll walk in the love of God and tithe because you love God instead of tithing because somebody's commanding you, then it will work like it's supposed to work
  2. Our motive for tithing is because we love God
    - a. If your motive is because you want to be blessed, it won't work
    - b. Abraham didn't tithe to get blessed, he tithed because he was blessed
  3. Where's the evidence of your love? Where there's love there's giving (John 3:16)
    - a. If you're not tithing, why aren't you? You're not tithing because you don't think you have to; so you only do what you have to do and what's required; so it's not about love anymore it's about requirements; you're back to the law
    - b. We use our tithe as a tool to express our love to God the way sex is a tool to express our love in a marriage relationship
  4. Abraham got back from a war that he shouldn't have won and knew God was why he won and had to honor God with the tithe and nobody commanded him to tithe
- B. Tithing is a love/heart issue not a money issue

1. People have made the issue of money; that shows us where their heart is (Mt 6:20)
  2. In the Garden, that tree was a love issue (John 15:6)
- C. Jesus put a stamp on tithing as a new testament practice (Luke 11:42, Matt 23:23)
1. Jesus said tithe, but don't omit the weightier matters
    - a. He's teaching them to not use the tithe as some payment for holiness; like I tithe so I'm good
  2. People tithe and omit love, faith, and judgment/character
    - a. Your tithe is no good without your love, your faith, & your character
    - b. If you omit love and faith and character and just drop money in the bucket there's no power in it anyway and no benefit to you; and I don't need your tithe: ONLY BRING IT BECAUSE YOU LOVE ME

#### V. Do I have to tithe?

- A. A tithe-blessing exchange is part of the covenant that God made with Abraham
1. There are consequences for every action
  2. In Gen 12 God promised Abraham the blessing; In Gen 14 he declared him blessed
  3. Galatians 3:9,14-We have the blessing of Abraham on us by faith, but the tithe plays a big role in getting that blessing working for us
- B. The Blessing makes rich (Proverbs 10:22)
1. The blessing is the anointing
  2. The blessing is the ability to get the job done
  3. The is the empowerment to have success in every arena of life
- C. There was a tithe-blessing-connection
1. Genesis 2-Don't touch the tree and you'll be blessed, touch it and you'll be cursed
  2. Malachi 3-There was a tithe-blessing-connection
  3. The tithe is a part of activating the blessing of Abraham
    - a. He gave the tithe and went on his way with something greater than he gave
- D. If the covenant is everlasting, God had to set up the same order, so that Abraham's seed could inherit the same promise that he got
1. If I'm a seed of Abraham and heirs according to the promise, the everything God promised to Abraham I have a right to
  2. If Abraham had a high priest to bring his tithe to and get the blessing activated in his life, then I need to have a high priest to bring my tithe to so that I can get the blessing activated in my life
  3. We've thought we just give the tithe and that's it