

Part 5

Written by

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Tithes

In Genesis we read about the first time a tithe was given.

Genesis 14:17 "And the king of Sodom went out to meet him after his return from the slaughter of Chedorlaomer, and of the kings that were with him, at the valley of Shaveh, which is the king's dale.

18: And Melchizedek king of Salem brought forth bread and wine: and he was the priest of the most high God.

19: And he blessed him, and said, Blessed be Abram of the most high God, possessor of heaven and earth:

20: And blessed be the most high God, which hath delivered thine enemies into thy hand. And he gave him tithes of all."

We see here how Melchizedek, a type of Jesus, gave wine and bread, like Jesus later gave His body and blood. We also see how Abram, out of gratitude, gave a tithe. Abram was under no obligation and there was no law he had to fulfill or adhere to. He simply did what was in his heart and what he felt was the right thing to do. When we therefore give a tithe, it is out of gratitude for what we already have received from the Cross. We don't fulfill any law by giving a tithe, but do it because we feel it is right in our hearts. We possess nothing, but yet are appointed as God's stewards, also to give a tithe in order for the church to function.

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This happening occurred 430 years before the law. The giving of a tithe (tenth) was later included under the law. It was done in order to teach people their responsibility as stewards of the earth. We see that the portion they were to give, was to go to the church treasury.

Malachi 3:10 "Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the Lord of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it."

There are functions that the church has to fulfill, and it requires funds, and the servants of the Word have to be paid from the treasury. In the same way, the Levitical priests, who were in full time service, lived from a portion of the income and offerings.

Numbers 18:21 "And, behold, I have given the children of Levi all the tenth in Israel for an inheritance, for their service which they serve, even the service of the tabernacle of the congregation."

1 Corinthians 9:11 "If we have sown unto you spiritual things, is it a great thing if we shall reap your carnal things?"

12: If others be partakers of this power over you, are not we rather? Never-theless we have not used this power; but suffer all things, lest we should hinder the gospel of Christ.

13: Do ye not know that they which minister about holy things live of the things of the temple? and they which wait at the altar are partakers with the altar?"

14: Even so hath the Lord ordained that they which preach the gospel should live of the gospel."

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1 Timothy 5:17 "Let the elders that rule well be counted worthy of double honour, especially they who labour in the word and doctrine."

18: For the scripture saith, Thou shalt not muzzle the ox that treadeth out the corn. And, The labourer is worthy of his reward."

1 Chronicles 29:3 "Moreover, because I have set my affection to the house of my God, I have of mine own proper good, of gold and silver, which I have given to the house of my God, over and above all that I have prepared for the holy house."

The bringing of an offering was part of the nation's worship. Money was part of it. Many people say it is not scriptural in the New Testament to give a tithe, as nothing is written about it. Well, Paul taught the congregations to put aside money from their weekly income for the ministry.

1 Corinthians 16:1 "Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I have given order to the churches of Galatia, even so do ye."

2: Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come."

When we, in New Testament times, and as heirs of Jesus, take possession of our full inheritance, we know that we are only stewards and that a tenth of that which we have received from God, is the least we want to give. We don't just want to give a tithe (tenth), but also sow from that which we have received. Remember, the promise of Mal 3:10 is part of God's blessings, which are still effective today. It is therefore still a good principle to practice today. It is no longer a law, but rather forms a part of our worship toward God. We don't give a tithe in order to be forgiven for our sins, but because we, as a result of Jesus' sacrifice on the cross, are already heirs.

In the Old Testament the people lived under many laws. The priests brought sacrifices on their

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behalf, and there existed no spirit relationship between God and ordinary people.

In the New Testament it has all changed. Jesus Christ, 2 000 years ago, broke down the separating wall between God and man, in order to enable us to have a personal relationship (like Adam) with Him again. In this relationship, God wants to, through His spirit, lead us into the full truth, help and show us what to do, every moment of every day. I no longer belong to myself, but am only a channel, through which our loving Heavenly Father wants to establish His Kingdom here on earth. I am a channel of the supernatural. It is now all about a walk in faith and obedience to the voice of God, Who lives in me, and Who wants to guide me.

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