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TITHING THE TITHE

STUDY GUIDE



TITHING THE TITHE

SCRIPTURE READING

Deuteronomy 26:1-10 & 12-15

And it shall be, when thou art come in unto the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee for an inheritance, and possessest it, and dwellest therein; that thou shalt take of the first of all the fruit of the earth, which thou shalt bring of thy land that the Lord thy God giveth thee, and shalt put it in a basket, and shalt go unto the place which the Lord thy God shall choose to place His name there. And thou shalt go unto the priest that shall be in those days, and say unto him, "I profess this day unto the Lord thy God, that I am come unto the country which the Lord sware unto our fathers for to give us." And the priest shall take the basket out of thine hand, and set it down before the altar of the Lord thy God. And thou shalt speak and say before the Lord thy God, "A Syrian ready to perish was my father, and he went down into Egypt, and sojourned there with a few, and became there a nation, great, mighty, and populous. And the Egyptians evil entreated us, and afflicted us, and laid upon us hard bondage: and when we cried unto the Lord God of our fathers, the Lord heard our voice, and looked on our affliction, and our labour, and our oppression: and the Lord brought us forth out of Egypt with a mighty hand, and with an outstretched arm, and with great terribleness, and with signs, and with wonders: and He hath brought us into this place, and hath given us this land, even a land that floweth with milk and honey. And now, behold, I have brought the firstfruits of the land, which Thou, O Lord, hast given me." And thou shalt set it before the Lord thy God, and worship before the Lord thy God.When thou hast made an end of tithing all the tithes of thine increase the third year, which is the year of tithing, and hast given it unto the Levite, the stranger, the fatherless, and the widow, that they may eat within thy gates, and be filled; then thou shalt say before the Lord thy God, "I have brought away the hallowed things out of mine house, and also have given them unto the Levite, and unto the stranger, to the fatherless, and to the widow, according to all thy commandments which Thou hast commanded me: I have not transgressed Thy commandments, neither have I forgotten them: I have not eaten thereof in my mourning, neither have I taken away ought thereof for any unclean use, nor given ought thereof for the dead: but I have hearkened to the voice of the Lord my God, and have done according to all that Thou hast commanded me. Look down from Thy holy habitation, from heaven, and bless thy people Israel, and the land which Thou hast given us, as Thou swarest unto our fathers, a land that floweth with milk and honey."

Malachi 3:8-12

Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed Me. But ye say, “Wherein have we robbed Thee?” In tithes and offerings. Ye are cursed with a curse: for ye have robbed Me, even this whole nation. 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. And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, and he shall not destroy the fruits of your ground; neither shall your vine cast her fruit before the time in the field, saith the Lord of hosts. And all nations shall call you blessed: for ye shall be a delightsome land, saith the Lord of hosts.

THEME

The tithe, which began with Abraham, is the giving of one tenth of our increase. The tithe belongs to God, but man has the privilege of using the tithe as seed which results in harvest. We tithe the tithe by what we **say**, rather than what we **pay**. God uses the tithe as a means to bless mankind.

I. THE ORIGIN OF TITHING

- A. The first Bible reference concerning the giving of tithes records that Abraham gave tithes to Melchizedek. (Genesis 14:18-20; Hebrews 7:1-10)
- B. Abraham’s tithe came approximately 430 years before the law; therefore, tithing did not find its origin in the law of Moses.
- C. Jacob, the grandson of Abraham, also tithed long before the law of Moses came into existence. (Genesis 28:20-22)

II. THE DEFINITION OF TITHING

- A. Tithe means tenth.
 - 1. The tithe belongs to God. (Malachi 3:8)
 - 2. God uses the tithe to bless man. (Malachi 3:10-12)
- B. Tithing is the giving or presentation of the tenth.
- C. Tithing should not be viewed as merely a debt, but rather as a means for God to bless His people.

III. THE PURPOSE FOR TITHING

- A. God is obviously wealthy enough to survive even if we do not give tithes; therefore, tithing is not designed to benefit God.
- B. Tithing benefits the tither most of all, since it opens an avenue for God to bless him.
- C. The Kingdom of God is benefited by the giving of tithes.
 - 1. God's house is taken care of when God's people tithe.
 - 2. God's ministers are taken care of when God's people tithe.
 - 3. The gospel is financed through tithes and offerings.
 - 4. The needs of others are met through benevolence, which comes as a result of tithes and offerings.
- D. The purpose of tithing is not to seek after wealth, nor is it because we owe a debt, but we should tithe because we love God and we want to obey His Word.
- E. Tithing is a means of blessing God, Who, in turn, blesses us so we can bless others.

IV. THE METHOD OF TITHING

- A. The tithe is to be brought to the place where God has chosen to place His name. (Deuteronomy 26:2)
- B. The tithe must then be presented to the priest. (Deuteronomy 26:3-4)
- C. The tithers profess to the priest that they have entered into the "Promised Land." (Deuteronomy 26:3)
- D. The tithe is then given to the priest. (Deuteronomy 26:4)
- E. The tithers then profess to God where He brought them **from** and where He has brought them **to**, and they remind Him that they are obeying His Word by tithing.

V. THE TITHING CONFESSION IS IMPORTANT

- A. What we say before, during, and after we tithe is extremely important. (Malachi 3:13)
- B. What we say or do not say can stop the blessing from being received.
 - 1. The blessing always comes; the windows of heaven are always opened; the devourer is always rebuked.
 - 2. Wrong confessions can move us from the position of blessing.
 - 3. Our words can give Satan the authority to work against us, even though God has blessed us. It is important to remember that our words are our will.
- C. Our confession must be in line with God's Word, regardless of the situation or the circumstances.
- D. We must learn to tithe our tithes if we expect to receive the flood-stage blessing from the Lord.

VI. THE TITHE IS THE LORD'S (Leviticus 27:30-33)

- A. A tenth of one's increase belongs to God.
 - 1. Man is given the stewardship over one hundred percent of all that he possesses.
 - 2. The tenth, which is God's, is entrusted to man to provide him with an avenue in which God can bless him.
 - 3. The remaining ninety percent belongs to man to do with as he pleases.
 - 4. Offerings are to be given from the ninety percent. We have the option of choosing how much to give and to whom we should give it.
- B. We belong to God; therefore, one hundred percent of everything we are or have actually belongs to Him. (I Corinthians 6:19-20)
 - 1. God gives us ninety percent of our income to use as we see fit.

2. It is not a matter of our giving God or paying God ten percent; in actuality, the ten percent was never ours in the first place.
 3. The ten percent is entrusted to us in order that we may use God's tenth to bless others and to receive blessings for ourselves also.
- C. The purpose of tithes is not to benefit the Lord, but rather to benefit us.

VII. ONE WHO DOES NOT TITHE STEALS (Malachi 3:8-9)

- A. Stealing is taking something that does not belong to you.
- B. One who does not tithe steals God's tenth and robs himself of blessing.
- C. There is a penalty for stealing.
1. One who does not tithe directly interferes with God's means of blessing.
 2. One who uses the tithe for himself is also required to pay twenty percent interest on what he has stolen. (Leviticus 6:5 and 27:31)
- D. One who does not tithe will suffer the consequences. God keeps accurate records!

VIII. TITHING IS A MEANS OF PROVING GOD

- A. God challenges man to prove Him. (Malachi 3:10)
- B. Man is to prove God by making the first move and rendering the tithe and offering to God.
- C. After man presents the tithe and offering to God, God opens the windows of Heaven and pours out a blessing so great that there is not enough room to receive it.

IX. BLESSINGS CAN BE STOLEN

- A. God always keeps His word. If He says that He will open the windows of heaven, He will.

- B. Wrong confession can stop one from receiving the blessing. (Malachi 3:13)
- C. Even a flood can be intercepted. (Revelation 12:15-16)

X. THE BENEFITS OF TITHING

- A. The windows of heaven are opened.
- B. The devourer is rebuked by God for our sakes. (Malachi 3:11)
- C. The devourer is not permitted to destroy the fruits of the ground [our labor]. (Malachi 3:11)
- D. Our vine will not cast its fruit prematurely; we will receive the full reward for our labor. (Malachi 3:11)
- E. All nations will call us blessed. Christians should be recognized as blessed people. (Malachi 3:12)

XI. THE PLACEMENT OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

- A. Tithes are to be brought to the storehouse. (Malachi 3:10)
- B. Tithes are presented to Jesus, but Jesus is not in the physical realm.
- C. The word “storehouse” means depository, which suggests a place of distribution. (Genesis 41)
- D. The temple was the storehouse under the old covenant, and it was the place of worship.
- E. Under the new covenant, there is more than one place of worship.
- F. Under the old covenant, the temple was the resource for meeting the needs of the people.
- G. Under the new covenant, the entire body of Christ is called upon to minister to needs.
- H. Under the old covenant, the tithe was to be brought to the place where God chose to place His name.

- I. Under the new covenant, this same rule should still apply. (Civic groups and charitable organizations are not places with God's name on them.)
- J. Under the old covenant, tithes and offerings were to be brought to the storehouse or depository.
- K. Under the new covenant, we are told to lay up treasures or deposits where moths or rust cannot corrupt, nor thieves steal. (Matthew 6:19-21)
 - 1. Giving to the poor is depositing treasure in heaven.
 - 2. Giving to help spread the Gospel is also depositing treasures in heaven.
 - 3. Giving to Jesus, the Priest, is giving to those in need. (Matthew 25:34-40)
 - 4. Local assemblies serve as storehouses from where distribution can occur.
- L. The tithe was brought to the place where the people worshipped under the old covenant; it would seem that the same rule should apply under the new covenant.
- M. In Malachi 3:10, God says we are to bring **all** the tithe into the storehouse, but He does not mention the offerings; however, we know from the Scriptures that offerings were brought to the tabernacle or temple as well.
- N. According to the Word, it appears that we should deposit our tithe in the place where we attend church regularly, provided God has placed His name there. The giving of offerings is left to the discretion of the individual; however, offerings are to be given to the Lord.
- O. Placing the tithe and offering in its proper place has a direct effect on our receiving the blessing associated with giving.
- P. The amount given determines the amount received. (Luke 6:38; II Corinthians 9:6-7)

XII. SUMMARY

- A. Tithing is an act of “faith” rather than obedience to the “law.”
- B. Tithing is for our benefit; it is a means for God to bless us.
- C. The method of tithing is important. (Deuteronomy 26)
- D. We tithe the tithe by our confession.
- E. The tithe is the Lord’s, not ours.
- F. One who does not tithe steals from God.
- G. Tithing is a means of proving God.
- H. The benefits of tithing are tremendous.
- I. The proper placement of tithes and offerings is important.
- J. How much we receive is determined by how much we give.

XIII. CONCLUSION

- A. There are certain principles which must be followed in our giving if we expect to receive the flood-stage blessing.
- B. God loves a cheerful giver. (II Corinthians 9:7)
- C. One should not give because of gimmicks or pressure.
 - 1. We are not to raise money by applying pressure.
 - 2. We are not to raise money by making people feel guilty if they do not give.
 - 3. We cannot give what we do not have.
 - 4. Fund-raising is not God’s method for getting money; fund-raising is a method devised by man.
- D. Tithe your tithe and give your offerings according to God’s Word.
- E. We must never allow our finances to control us; we must always be in control of our finances.

- F. The giving of tithes and offerings requires financial discipline; this discipline should come as a result of our love for God.
- G. Our greatest blessings will come when we are fully obedient to God in all aspects of our lives.

TITHING CONFESSION

Scriptural Foundation - Deuteronomy 26:5-10

Father, I come to You in the name of Jesus. I recognize that I was a sinner, lost and without hope, but through the name of Jesus, I have been saved from sin and given eternal hope. Not only have You saved me from sin, but You have also blessed my life with material blessings. In obedience to You and in appreciation for all that You have done for me, I have come to a place where You have placed Your name, and I have brought my tithe to You. Jesus, You are my High Priest. I present to You this tithe and ask that You receive it. I confess that You are my Lord and Savior—my Strength and my Redeemer—You are my God and in You, I trust. Thank You for receiving from my hand the tithe of what You have graciously given unto me. I know that through my giving, the ministers, the guests, the orphans, and the widows will receive provision as You have ordained. I declare unto You that I have not taken from Your tithe, but I have obeyed Your Word, and I have given unto You, just as You have commanded. Thank You for receiving from my hand that which You have given unto me. I gladly give to You the tithe of my increase.