

BETHANY BAPTIST CHURCH
NEW MEMBER LESSON # 9 – GIVING & TITHING



Introduction

Why am I always broke John asked his sister. She replied do you tithe? John said I give when I can, I usually don't have anything to give. John's sister replied your wallet is always empty because you are not giving God what so rightly belongs to him.

Lesson

Before we can get into a discussion on giving and tithing, it is important that we understand that everything belongs to the Lord. Haggai 2:8 says the silver and gold is the Lord; Psalms 24:1 says the earth and everything in it is the Lords. He only requires us to return a portion to Him to provide for the ministry. The Bible declared that the Lord loves a cheerful giver and the liberal give will have great increase.

This lesson will define Tithing; share Old and New Testament teachings, the Blessings of Tithing and the hardships incurred with holding on to God's money.

What is Tithing?

Tithing is a way of recognizing that all we have including our very lives comes from God. Therefore, we are willing to joyfully return a 10th (tithes means tenth) of our income, time and talents back to him. When we give our tithes it is not an indication of need on God's part, but it is an acknowledgement on our part of our utter dependence on Him, and gratitude (rather than a requirement) for the gift of salvation that was made possible through Jesus Christ. Tithing is an act of obedience when we give 10% of our income/increase back to the Lord. We can trust God with our 90 percent.

Old Testament Tithing

Tithing is mentioned throughout the Old Testament, particularly when God commissioned the tribe of Levi, (one of the twelve tribes of Israel) to serve by caring for the tabernacle and providing spiritual leadership for the nation of Israel. Since the tribe of Levi was given these two responsibilities, God did not assign to them a portion of land (as He had assigned portions of land to the other tribes of Israel), but He instructed the rest of the Israelites to bring tithes of their increase to provide for the priests and Levites. It was the law. (See Numbers 18)

New Testament Tithing

The New Testament (2nd Corinthian's 9:7) addresses our attitude towards giving. It says "so let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity for God loves a cheerful giver". We should not be coerced into giving. However, we should plan; set aside a portion to give to the Lord.

It is worth reading in 2 Corinthians 8:1-7, the Macedonian Church was described as being very poor, in the midst of severe trials; however they gave with great joy. They gave more than those who were wealthy and able to give. They counted it a privilege to give out of their poverty. All of us have something we can give and when we give like this, it is not long before we have a lot more.

In the New Testament, Jesus affirmed the practice of tithing (see Matthew 23:23), and the Apostle Paul encouraged Christians to give to those in need and to those serving in the Gospel (II Corinthians 9:6–15). When you tithe today, you enable Pastors, and ministry personnel to faithfully build up the Church, Community and the World therefore expanding the kingdom of God.

Blessings of Tithing

Malachi 3:10-12 KJV declares, 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. **11** 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. **12** And all nations shall call you blessed: for ye shall be a delightsome land, saith the Lord of hosts.

God Promises:

Excessive blessings,
God will rebuke the devourer
Protect the results
Guaranteed harvest
All Nations will call you blessed
You will be delightful

Hardships of Not Tithing

Malachi 3: 7-9 KJV declares

⁷ Even from the days of your fathers ye are gone away from mine ordinances, and have not kept them. Return unto me, and I will return unto you, saith the LORD of hosts. But ye said, wherein shall we return? ⁸ Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, wherein have we robbed thee; In tithes and offerings. ⁹ Ye are cursed with a curse: for ye have robbed me, even this whole nation.

When we look at our lives and it seems as though we work and our pockets have holes in them. Haggai 1:5-6 states: ⁵ Now therefore thus saith the LORD of hosts; Consider your ways. ⁶ Ye have sown much, and bring in little; ye eat, but ye have not enough; ye drink, but ye are not filled with drink; ye clothe you, but there is none warm; and he that earneth wages earneth wages to put it into a bag with holes. In other words we are cursed.

Review

- 1 Who owns everything?**
- 2 What is a tithe?**
- 3 What was the purpose of Old Testament tithing?**
- 4 What is the attitude of New Testament tithing?**
- 5 Why should we tithe?**
- 6 When should we not give/tithe?**
- 7 When you “consider your ways”, what do you see?**

Name

Date