

October 28, 2018
La Jolla Christian Fellowship
SPENT : What's So Important About The Harvest?
WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS ABOUT TITHING.
Pastor Adam Stadtmiller

Malachi 3:6-12

“I the LORD do not change. So you, the descendants of Jacob, are not destroyed. ⁷ Ever since the time of your ancestors you have turned away from my decrees and have not kept them. Return to me, and I will return to you,” says the LORD Almighty. “But you ask, ‘How are we to return?’ ⁸ “Will a mere mortal rob God? Yet you rob me. “But you ask, ‘How are we robbing you?’ “In tithes and offerings. ⁹ You are under a curse—your whole nation—because you are robbing me. ¹⁰ Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this,” says the LORD Almighty, “and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it. ¹¹ I will prevent pests from devouring your crops, and the vines in your fields will not drop their fruit before it is ripe,” says the LORD Almighty. ¹² “Then all the nations will call you blessed, for yours will be a delightful land,” says the LORD Almighty.

Tithing is not the Lotto.

Understanding Tithing: The tithe was an obligatory offering from the law of Moses requiring 10 percent of an Israelite’s first fruits. Because God provided the harvest, this first part was returned to Him. It was a reminder to Israel that all things we have are His. It was a show of thankfulness for His provision. It also provided for the Levitical priesthood, festivals, and the needy.

Abraham - The First Tithe:

Gen. 14:19–20 *And he blessed him and said, “Blessed be Abram by God Most High, Possessor of heaven and earth; and blessed be God Most High, who has delivered your enemies into your hand!” And Abram gave him a tenth of everything.*

- In gratitude to God’s authority and blessing, Abram gives Melchizedek a tenth of his possessions. He doesn’t do it to *invoke* God’s blessing; he does it in *response* to God’s blessing.

The Tithe Becomes Required Law:

Lev. 27:30–34 *Every tithe of the land, whether of the seed of the land or of the fruit of the trees, is the Lord’s; it is holy to the Lord. If a man wishes to redeem some of his tithe, he shall add a fifth to it. And every tithe of herds and flocks, every tenth animal of all that pass under the herdsman’s staff, shall be holy to the Lord. One shall not differentiate between good or bad, neither shall he make a substitute for it; and if he does substitute for it, then both it and the substitute shall be holy; it shall not be redeemed.”*

- It is required because God deserves honor, thanksgiving, and praise; to *not* require that need to be fulfilled would be denying what He is due.
- **Is tithing still required? The simple answer is _____.**
 - **Malachi 3:8** *Will a mere mortal rob God? Yet you rob me.*

- **Christ Fulfilled the requirement, but kept the blessing: Matthew 15:17-20** *Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. ¹⁸For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished.*

The Christ Tithes: God paid the debt due to the law by tithing his son.

- **Galatians 3:13** *Christ paid the price to free us from the curse that the laws in Moses' teachings bring by becoming cursed instead of us.*

The Blessing Still Stands: All of God's laws come with an inherent blessing.

- **Malachi 3:10-12** *Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this," says the LORD Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it. ¹¹I will prevent pests from devouring your crops, and the vines in your fields will not drop their fruit before it is ripe," says the LORD Almighty. ¹²"Then all the nations will call you blessed, for yours will be a delightful land," says the LORD Almighty.*

God is not a fan of the mandatory tithe

- **The Freewill offering: Psalm 54:6-7** *Willingly I will sacrifice to You; I will give thanks to Your name, O LORD, for it is good. For He has delivered me from all trouble, And my eye has looked with satisfaction upon my enemies.*
- **The Cheerful Giver: 2 Corinthians 9:6-7** *The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. ⁷Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.*

Food For The Journey: Use these questions for going deeper in one of our community groups are in deeper study and reflection.

1. What has been your relationship to tithing and do you tithe consistently? What have you seen as the results of that?
2. 10% has been a biblical standard for tithing. Why do you think God chose that number?
3. It is God's desire that we give from freewill and a grateful and cheerful heart? Is this hard to do?
4. Galatians 3:13 says that God paid the debt of the curse by giving or as pastor Adam said, tithing his son. How does that change the way you think about tithing if at all?
5. Challenge: Pray over and pick a % that you will give on a regular basis. Keep track of what happens in your financial life and test God in this!