

To TITHE or not to TITHE.

Firstly, this not an in-depth teaching.

I am attempting to put my understanding of all scripture regarding this in a simple manner.

There were I believe 3 tithes.

One for GOD and the priesthood, one for EACH OTHER (for the feasts which YOU ate) and one for Others every 3 years (the poor, the foreigner, even the Levites ie Community).

The one we hear about most is the one for GOD.

Abraham is recorded as doing this at least once....*his idea*

To Honor God for the safe return of his Family, household, possessions and the extra booty.

He thanked GOD for HIM enabling this and gave the excess to the King.

He didn't have to give the tithe, it was his way of thanking and honouring God's supernatural provision.

Jacob made a covenant ("deal") with God to keep him safe and make his way a success when running away to his Mother's family. In return he would THEN call HIM his God and tithe to HIM.

Up until then, Jacob obviously had no need for God, and it doesn't mention whether he kept his side of the bargain.

GOD is open to deals with unbelievers to get their attention, and believers to encourage a change/trust.

It was Jacob's idea, although he would have been aware of his grandfather's gift.

Then, there was the LAW (to the Israelites...the 12 tribes).

Does God need or want your money? NO.

Does God want to force you to Thank HIM, Worship HIM, or Honour HIM?. NO.

He would dearly Love you to RESPOND to HIS goodness and Love toward you.

Just to digress here.

In Heaven were at least 3 Arch-Angels (that we know) heading their responsible areas.

Lucifer was in charge of Worship.

After the physical Universe and Earth were created, he was exiled there (here) having given in to pride.

His team of angels chose to go with him, and after the flood were imprisoned in a chamber of Hell.

SO, there is no Worship team in heaven.

Why was Man created?

What is GOD looking for in the Earth?Worshippers!

That we might CHOOSE to Thank Worship and Honour HIM.

SO, back to the Law.

It is in the main, practical.

There were 12 tribes.

2 were smaller and called half-tribes. ie in size- 11 tribes.

GOD called out the Levites to serve HIM.

They were NOT allocated a share of the Land as were the others.

They were to live in towns, but there was some community land that they could till.

The other 11 (10 full tribes) were to give a tenth (share) of their agricultural increase to the Levites, to compensate them for not being able to gain this increase themselves.

The Levites were to tithe what they were given to the Levites in Jerusalem, serving in the Temple.

That's it. (that there be food in my house) Gods house in Jerusalem. So the onus was on the LEVITES.

So, if you are an Israelite trying to get into Heaven thru the Old Covenant of Mt Sinai, then tithe. But who are you going to give it to?

What about Malachi 3? What about it?

Firstly see the previous sentence.

Secondly, who is speaking and to whom, in this chapter?

Thru a minor Prophet (Ezra?) GOD is speaking to all the Israelites and **particularly the Priests (Levites)**.

They all had become lax in their faithfulness (therefore Trust) to GOD and to each other (eg Divorce)

since returning from exile and rebuilding the walls and Temple.

In Malachi 3 GOD is giving them a pep-talk to restate their responsibility to pass on the tithe.

Not just the 11 tribes, **but really, the Levites.**

This was essential to have a working Priesthood. It would not work without it.

The Levites received the tithes and offerings in their towns. (near the harvest and herds)

They were meant to pass on a tenth of this to the Levites in service, in Jerusalem at the Temple.

This was not being done with diligence. (probably because they weren't receiving enough...God knows)

I believe, *Kevin speaking*, this is where the provision for Church administrations is today .

The Israelites were also being spoken to. As how can the Levites pass on enough to Jerusalem if they are not receiving enough.

The modern day "Levites" receive offerings that was not produced by their own hands.

There is an expectation that they should give from this.

Unfortunately 'they' use this scripture to benefit themselves NOT seeing that the responsibility is on them.

They expect you to give according to Malachi 3 but they don't put their trust in this scripture to bless their own Ministries.

Who needs to set the example?

You will see later why they should do it today.

There is no Temple today so where do Ministry send their 'tithe'? To Jerusalem as per Paul's epistles.

Remember, Jesus had gone to the cross and our Father had left the Temple when Paul wrote them.

Paul spoke about giving gifts "to the poor Saints in Jerusalem" as in Romans 15.

v25 Now, however, I am on my way to Jerusalem in the service of the Lord's people (Saints) there. 26For Macedonia and Achaia were pleased to make a contribution for the poor among the Lord's people in Jerusalem. 27They were pleased to do it, and indeed they owe it to them. For if the Gentiles have shared in the Jews' spiritual blessings, they owe it to the Jews to share with them their material blessings.

when was the last time you heard this preached? Not to their benefit?

*Phill 4:15 And you Philippians yourselves know that in the beginning of the gospel, when I left Macedonia, no church entered into partnership with me in **giving and receiving**, except you only. 16 Even in Thessalonica you sent me help for my needs once and again. 17 Not that I seek the gift, but I seek the fruit that is **credited to your account**.*

*2 Cor 8:3 they **gave of their own accord**, 4 begging us with much urging for the favor of participation in the support of the Saints, (in Jerusalem) 5 and this, not as we had expected, but **they first gave themselves to the Lord** and then to us by the will of God...*

He extolled the Church in Macedonia and the Philippians., encouraging the Corinthians to do likewise and so on thru the Epistles.

It was not an honour to live in Jerusalem, for a time they drew lots "the short straw" to have to live there.

I believe if Ministries gave to Christian Ministries in Jerusalem their needs would be more than met.

I would put Romans 15 giving as the best investment for Christians. (while continuing to give locally)

In the New Testament, (where we are living) what does it say about tithing.

Let's digress again.

The problem with "the theory of evolution" is there is no evidence.

If it was a fact that life evolved by accident upon accident, then the ground would be absolutely full of all the freaks and mutations along the way to this.

Not so.

Every thing ever dug up has been allocated to their type ("kind") as in Genesis 1.

While on this, Wikipedia states that there are 35million SNP's alone in difference between chimps and humans. (a little deceptive when saying that chimps share 96% of genes of humans) let alone that we have 1 pair of chromosomes less.

That is a lot of accidents and mutations, many in sequence. Not as easy to believe?

So why did I go there?

Paul was the Apostle to the Gentiles. That's all of us who are not Israelites.

Where does he teach these (us) "pagan gentiles" about tithing?no evidence!

He didn't teach on it!

In fact he warned Christians about such "extra" teachings in Romans 16:17-18.

But what about when Jesus spoke to the Pharisees in Matt 23:23?

Firstly Jesus had not gone to the cross yet, ie the Old covenant was still active

The Israelites were still under the Law.

Who did Jesus say He came for? “only for the lost sheep of Israel”

ie He wasn't speaking to the Gentiles anyway.

But again, Jesus (GOD) was speaking to the Pharisees (a religious elite...Church Leaders?)

and encouraging them to continue to tithe.

To summarise so far.

If you were an Israelite living before Jesus went to the cross, you should tithe.

There is no teaching or encouragement of it after the cross.

“But I have been tithing”.

What ever you give to God he receives and is Holy.

If your action is based on the Word, then expect to receive the benefits.

I have tithed. Even double tithed.

I don't at present but I try to meet needs and give to Ministry and church admin to this level.

Would I tithe?

Yes

If I was a farmer, or if HE personally asked me to.

What do you mean “a farmer”.

Now it gets hard to explain without looking double minded.

In the New Covenant (deal) we enjoy from the Lord, what must we do?

Nothing.

He is looking for a response not a compulsory list of dos and don'ts.

So I don't have to give, share, tithe, knock on doors, serve?.....nothing!

You can not add to what Jesus has done, only respond to what has been done for you.

So, what about finances?

You still believe you need to partner the Lord in this area. Great!

The Lord says we should share what we have excess of, with those who don't have enough.

Paul also promotes this. But with a warning in 2 Cor 8 13-15.

Give out of your excess, not from your needs.

God is our Provider, THE Provider. He is also El Shaddai, our GOD More than enough.

GOD says, “all the Fat belongs to me”.

As in proverbs 3:9-10.

Barns filled with plenty (needs) and vats overflowing with new wine (what you don't need)

The condition that you honor God with your wealth and with the first of your produce.

Do not rob GOD of his Glory. What HE has done.

He will not rob you of yours. What you have done.

Remember God bases giving to HIM on agricultural increase. What HE has done.

Fat is Excess. It is from the Lord and belongs to the Lord. We have a choice of what to do with it.

The problem with tithing as a financial gift is that it favours the rich and costs the poor.

Aha!

Here we are.

Most of us are city dwellers, not farmers. Earning an income from non-agricultural means.

We are not sowing seed and reaping “ 30, 60, 100 fold.”

We SELL our life for money. We don't sow an hour and get paid for 30 hours.

Where is the Glory of GOD in this?

What you do with your hands is to your glory.

You buy a house, do it up, sell and make a handsome profit.

What you do with your hands is to your glory.

So if tithing was still a requirement you wouldn't need to give from your salary.

The expectation (hope) would be to share (give an offering) from the excess over needs.
So when the church admin expects a widow or single mum to tithe from her welfare payments,
but let the the rich off the hook by only requesting a tithe, is GOD pleased?
It is done in HIS name by misuse misunderstanding or plain ignorance of HIS Word
AND HIS Nature.

Sorry about that. Getting worked up.

The “church admin” receives your “offerings”. (We are the Church, a temple made by God, not man)

Did the “church” earn it?

Then do they need to honour God for it?

As I said alluded to earlier, Malachi 3 is not for you.

To summarise again.

You don't have to do anything in the New Covenant. But you should choose to.

Your response is a measure of appreciation.

Scripture often states “with thanksgiving and prayer”

prayer- you need to Ask, even though God already knows what you need and want.

It is required, it gives Him permission.

There are many NT scriptures encouraging you to share and give (from your excess).

You would be pleasing God and imitating Him if you acted upon them.

You should give glory (honour) to God for what HE has done.

If you are a farmer, I would try to tithe.

Try?

Yes. It is not the same environment.

The Israelites were given the land, orchards vines house barns equipment livestock etc.

We need to borrow to set ourselves up.

We would be competing with people who have the extra 10th to play with.

BUT. We have GOD and HIS Word (promise) HIS Integrity and HIS Supernatural involvement.

So how much (of your excess) do you give?

Whatever HE lays on your heart.

Jesus speaking: Luke 6:38 Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.”

and Paul....

2 Cor 9:6 Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. 7 Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. 8 And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.

9 As it is written: “They have freely scattered their gifts to the poor; their righteousness endures forever.”

10 Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness. 11 You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God.

12 This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of the Lord’s people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God. ,,,and so on...

You have heard these often, but now in context.

Hope this helps.

Kevin Cramp

Can I share with you 1 more example?.....

If you had enough corn seed to plant an acre of land.

The World's way:

You could sell it and put the money in the bank.

At the end of 10 years you *might* double your money.

This with inflation and taxation probably still buys only 1 acre of corn seed but lets say you now have 2.

Invest into God's Kingdom in partnership with HIM and Trust in HIS Word:

Corn cobs can have 500 kernels and a corn stalk have 3 or more cobs.

Lets say for ease, that you keep 2 cobs to sow next year, and you use the others for labour and to eat.

After 1 years you can sow 1000 acres

2 years 1000x1000 1 million acres.

3 years 1000x1M 1000 million (a billion ...GB and USA)

4 years 1000 billion

BUT the Earth has only 36 billion acres and only 7.5 billion arable.

For ease, let us use 10 billion acres of arable land

We need to get to 10 years, so some imagination.....

They say there are between 100-400 Billion stars in the Milky Way

Lets say 100 Billion

They say 100-200 Billion galaxies ...even as high as 500 Billion

Lets say 100 Billion

Now lets say that every star in the Milky Way and in every galaxy has an Earth.

That is 10 thousand billion billion Earths.

So After 4years we now sow 100 Earths

5 years x1000 100,000 Earths

6 years x1000 100 million Earths

7 years x1000 100 billion Earths

8 years x1000 100,000 billion Earths

9 years x1000 100 million billion Earths

10 years 100 billion billion would be the last crop before running out of land in the universe.

in acres? 1 with 30 zeros after it!! a bit more than the World's 2.

This is just a physical representation.

The principal of Sowing and Reaping in the Word makes it a Supernatural Law.

God's agricultural principle of sowing and reaping can be Trusted!

Some extras:

replace Faith with Trust

replace Worship with Appreciation

replace Praise with Thanksgiving (for what He has done for you and who He is to you)

remember all that you have belongs to the Lord including your bills and debts.

Honour God with a 'Sabbath' rest.

A day off from earning an income.

Do not use another's labour on that day either.

By this, you honour the 1000 years of peace to come under the Lordship of Jesus.

If Adam to the return of Jesus to collect His Bride (Us the Church) was 24 hours and He comes in the next 20 years we are living in the last 5 minutes, 4 years...the last minute. Be ready. Matt25.

Remember, that when a prophet speaks of a day it can be a year but when God speaks of a day, it can be 1000 years. When Jesus spoke of the parable, the good Samaritan gave the equiv of 2 days provision before his return. Jesus rose *early* on the third day. That is where we are.

It is ALL about **relationship** with God our Father (Dad), and each other. Matt 22:35

The extra oil of Matt 25 10 virgins, is relationship with the Father.

The latter rain will centre on this.