

AN EXTRACT FROM

“What The Bible **REALLY** Says About
TITHING!”

By

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“AND YE SHALL KNOW THE TRUTH AND THE TRUTH SHALL MAKE YOU FREE.” [John 8:32] KJV

Please note that all Bible quotations in this book are taken from the King James Version of The Holy Bible.

INTRODUCTION

The Law of Tithing is probably one of the most under-rated, **deliberately MISREPRESENTED and definitely most MISUNDERSTOOD** Laws in the Bible!

Far from being the Source of Blessing that God undoubtedly intended it to be, tithing has been presented by **far too** many people for **far too** many years as being primarily a heavy **FINANCIAL burden** that **STILL** rests upon us today. All too often we are told that “Old Covenant or not”, tithing is *still* an obligation we **MUST** meet, and that the Wrath Of God will inevitably fall upon ourselves and our families if we fail to pay Him our “**dues**”.

In many of our Churches today God is presented to the Congregation almost as a Mafiosi-type figure who will undoubtedly “**GET YOU**” if you fail to pay Him what they are actually representing as your “**protection money**” i.e. your tithe! **What an abomination it is** that people professing to be men and women of God should present such an utterly **FALSE, mercenary and UNHOLY** picture of our Heavenly Father!

I have **GOOD NEWS** for readers who have been condemned or intimidated by this type of teaching...God is most definitely **NOT** in the ‘Protection Racket’, neither is the Mafia a “**Scripturally-Based**” organisation, as such preaching **could well lead one to believe!** How great Gods’ Wrath will be when He meets “face to face” those who have so egregiously misrepresented Him and placed His Children under such bondage, for surely He will profess unto them, “I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.” (Matt 7:23)

The idolatrous worship of money within Christian Churches today has become so commonplace that it is now no longer particularly unusual to hear Pastors proudly proclaiming that **UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES** will they go and pray for Church members who call upon them for help if those same Church members **are not tithers!** Ministers have even been heard to callously state that the blame for terrible tragedies that have befallen some families **CAN BE LAID AT THESE FAMILIES OWN FRONT DOORS, since their failure to tithe had undoubtedly brought disaster and the Wrath of God down upon their heads!** This seems **UNBELIEVABLE**, yet is regrettably **TRUE!** Surely it is strange however, given the **SELF-RIGHTEOUS** and entirely **INFLEXIBLE** stance many ministers adopt on this issue, that there is not **ONE** example of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ **checking that people were tithers BEFORE He prayed for them?** Isn’t it strange, given the tremendous diversity of people He must have prayed for, that we do not read of **ONE** instance when He said to the sick and impoverished, “**Of course you’re sick, of course you’re poor, YOU’RE NOT TITHING!**”

When children were brought to him so he could put His Hands upon them and pray for them Jesus didn't say **"Alright, but check that their parents are tithers first"**! He said "Suffer the little children, and forbid them not to come unto me: for of such is the kingdom of heaven". (Matt 19:13)

No matter how carefully you scan the pages of the Bible you will not find ONE example of Christ admonishing people to attend the Synagogue or Temple on the Sabbath **and start tithing right away BEFORE they could have their needs met!** The only time Jesus mentioned tithing AT ALL was when He scathingly denounced the nauseating hypocrisy of the Pharisees, who were totally distorting the true intent of Covenant Law by overemphasizing to an absurd degree the importance of SOME aspects of it (**particularly tithing, even then!**) whilst completely ignoring other larger, **AND FAR MORE IMPORTANT** issues. Whilst acknowledging that they were correct to teach tithing (as they were still under Old Covenant Law at that time and His Sacrificial Death had yet to occur) Christ's **ANGER** at their **distortion** of the Law and the disgraceful *examples* they set is quite evident. Wherever else today's "men of God" get *their* teachings and indeed their hard-hearted attitudes from, it certainly **ISN'T** from either the words or example of our Lord and Saviour! (Matt 23:23 Luke 11:42)

Before we can fully understand the Biblical concept of the Law of Tithing we must first realize that God intended this Law to be a **BLESSING, not a CURSE!** God did not establish the Covenant with its many Laws and regulations to **punish** mankind but to **TEACH HIM** how to be **RIGHTEOUS!** He laid down guidelines to show man **how to DIFFERENTIATE** between right and wrong, good and evil, with the intent and purpose that if man chose to do what was **RIGHT** He would bless him accordingly. The Covenant was not therefore a **THREAT**, it was a **PROMISE!**

God **saw the POTENTIAL of man**, and after The Fall (the expulsion of Adam and Eve from the Garden Of Eden) He sought a way to enable an extremely **UNRIGHTEOUS** human race **to have a RELATIONSHIP with a God Who IS and WAS utterly RIGHTEOUS, PURE and HOLY.** He wanted to give man an opportunity **to SHOW HIM that he COULD BE righteous** and make the **RIGHT** spiritual choices that would put him in right standing with God, his Creator.

Deut. 11:26/28 Clearly states: "Behold, I set before you this day A **BLESSING and a curse**; A **BLESSING** if ye obey the commandments of the Lord your God which I command you this day; and **a curse** if ye will **not** obey the commandments of the Lord your God but turn aside out of the way which I command you this day, to go after other gods, which ye have not known."

It is made *plain* to us in this Scripture that any curses (or punishments) attached to Covenant Law came into effect **only when the Law was broken by the UNRIGHTEOUS**, and were thus no more unjust than any other legal system of crime and punishment subsequently adopted by mankind today; **such systems are ultimately a safeguard for us all.** Now that we have got this important fact straight in our minds let us turn to Scripture and examine for ourselves what the Bible **REALLY** says about tithing!

CHAPTER ONE

The Nature and Purpose Of The Tithe

That the tithe (or the tenth) was to be separated unto God as Holy cannot be disputed, it was quite clearly an Old Covenant requirement, and as such is an integral part of Holy Scripture. What we must ask ourselves is **WHY** did God introduce **THE LAW of the Tithe**, and what purpose did **HE** intend it to serve, as opposed to the purpose many Church Leaders would have it serve today? We must also ask, in what **SENSE** was it Holy, and in what **SENSE** was it to be **“separated unto Him”**?

That the tithe, under the Old Covenant, IS Holy unto Him is shown in Leviticus 27:30/32 which states:

“And all the tithe of the land, whether of the seed of the land, or of the fruit of the tree, is the Lord’s: it is holy unto the Lord...And concerning the tithe of the herd, or of the flock, even of whatsoever passeth under the rod, the tenth shall be holy unto the Lord”

The NATURE and PURPOSE of the tithe is however, wonderfully illustrated in Deut. 12:17/18, Deut. 14:22/29, Deut. 15:19/20 and Deut. 26:1/19. I suggest the reader study these references carefully and prayerfully in order to confirm the validity of the findings presented here.

Firstly, in Deut 12:17/18 we see clearly **that the tither HIMSELF was actually to PARTAKE of the tithe**, ideally not at his home, but at a place to be specified by God Himself. We can also see HOW and with whom the tithe was to be shared.

“Thou mayest not eat *within thy gates* the tithe of thy corn, or of thy wine, or of thy oil, or the firstlings of thy herds or of thy flock, nor of any of thy vows which thou vowest, nor thy free will offerings, or heave offering of thy hand. **But THOU MUST EAT THEM before the Lord thy God** in the place which the Lord thy God shall choose, **thou, and thy son, and thy daughter, and thy manservant, and thy maidservant, and the Levite that is within thy gates: and thou shalt REJOICE before the Lord thy God in all that thou puttest thy hands unto.**” (Emphasis mine)

A few startling facts emerge from the close scrutiny of **THAT** particular Scripture! Apart from the fact that the tither *himself* was to share in the tithe, startling enough news **in itself** when one considers the teachings of many a

Pastor on this, there emerges from this Scripture a very definite picture of the tither *taking time off from his normal round of earthly toil* and entering into a time of joyful separation unto the Lord, both he *and* his household (i.e. his family and retainers).

Deuteronomy 14:22/23 confirms this, dwelling also on the ‘fear’ or reverence of God that must accompany this act: “Thou shalt truly tithe all the increase of thy seed, that the field bringeth forth year by year. ***And thou shalt eat before the Lord Thy God, in the place which he shall choose to place his name there, the tithe of thy corn, and of thy wine and of thine oil, and the firstlings of thy herds and of thy flocks: that thou mayest learn to fear the Lord thy God always.***”

From these two Scriptures alone, we can see that the tithers active and sincere participation in the actual *consumption* of the tithe was one of the most **crucial** aspects of tithing itself, and yet this aspect of it is entirely omitted from practically *every* teaching on tithing you will ever hear! The tithe is ALWAYS presented as being ENTIRELY for the benefit of the Levite, it is NEVER presented as being of benefit to the tither ***IN ANY WAY other than as a sacrifice that will ultimately put him in God’s “good books”!*** As if to add **insult to injury** today’s poor oppressed tither is even required to look **“joyful”** *whilst performing a sacrificial act that is probably depriving him and his family of much needed food and clothing!* God’s intentions however, couldn’t have been more different! CERTAINLY there was an element of giving to the needy, CERTAINLY there was provision in His Laws for *portions* to be given to the Levites and the sons of Aaron, ***the MAIN purpose of the tithe however, was to strengthen man’s relationship with God, REFRESHING him, RENEWING his inner man as freed from his normal grinding routine the tither gathered his family around him and RELAXED before God, worshipfully and gratefully enjoying ALL that God had provided him with.***

That this was to be a **VASTLY** enjoyable experience for the tither is clearly illustrated in Deut 14:24/39. If the place where the tithe was to be celebrated and shared was too far to take the livestock and crops but it was still possible for the tither himself to travel there, he was to turn the tithe into money and: “...go unto the place which the Lord thy God shall choose and thou shalt bestow that money **FOR WHATSOEVER THY SOUL LUSTETH AFTER,** for oxen, or for sheep, or for **WINE,** or for **STRONG DRINK,** or for **WHATSOEVER THY SOUL DESIRETH** and thou shalt eat there before the Lord thy God **AND THOU SHALT REJOICE,** THOU AND THY HOUSEHOLD. And the Levite within thy gate: thou shalt not forsake him: for he hath no part nor inheritance with thee”. (Emphasis mine)

Why was the tither to buy whatever he “lusted” after unless it was that he himself was meant to thoroughly enjoy it? This is rather different from the

picture of tithing so often presented to us isn't it? These verses speak of feasting, of indulgence, they demonstrate God's LOVE of man, *and His understanding of man's need to "let his hair down" and completely unwind from time to time!* Probably **very few** of you have had these particular Scriptures quoted at you when the issue of tithing has come under the spotlight in YOUR Churches!

Obviously, the Scriptures quoted here are not to be interpreted as encouraging an orgy of drunkenness or gluttony, but at the same time we must admit that it was clearly God's intention that everyone was to have a thoroughly good time when sharing the tithe, *remaining mindful always that the praise and thanks for all they were enjoying, and would continue to enjoy throughout the year, BELONGED TO HIM.*

The act of sharing the tithe in the place and manner specified by God was to show everyone that you attributed your blessings to HIM, **not** to your skill as a farmer, or to the "**luck**" of good weather, but to GOD! You took your tithe TO HIM, you rejoiced BEFORE HIM, you SHARED IT, with your household, with the Levite, and also the needy about whom He cares deeply. It was your **TRIBUTE** to Him, saying within your heart: Look at everything You have blessed me with Father, how I PRAISE *and* THANK YOU for it! Let me now *share it*, with my family, with the Levite, with the Widow, the Fatherless and the Stranger, *that they too with grateful hearts might bring Glory to Your Name!*

THAT my friends was the TRUE purpose of tithing, **not** the ritualistic, dry, meaningless and oppressive **bondage** that many seek to inflict upon us today! The Law of Tithing, if properly adhered to and celebrated in the manner the Lord desired, **ministered as much if not MORE to the SPIRIT than the flesh!**

This was **NOT** a monthly "TOLL FEE" extracted by a Church or Religious Organisation (with 'biblical' menaces) from people who could ill afford it to be used solely to sustain and glorify an individual Fellowship or Pastor as is usually the case today – **NO this was to bring GLORY TO GOD! This was to be a CELEBRATION a PRAISE AND WORSHIP FESTIVAL, a TIME OF THANKSGIVING! A TIME IN WHICH TO HONOUR GOD!**

NOWHERE in any of these foundational tithing Scriptures does it instruct us to give our ENTIRE tithe to the Levite *for him* to apportion as he sees fit; we and indeed our families and servants were to enjoy the bulk of it *ourselves*, yet Pastors are demanding our ENTIRE tithe today – on what basis? Certainly not on the basis of any of *these* tithing Scriptures!

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It is quite obvious from the Scriptures we have studied exactly what GOD intended the time of the tithe to be like, and the purpose HE intended it to serve in our lives. This was not an act born of *fear*, nor was it a casual giving of money to others in the often vain hope that the recipient will meet the needs of the underprivileged with it, **NO**, we were to care for the needy OURSELVES, **directly, not indirectly!** There was to be personal involvement, and personal caring in our giving. This personal caring was an external demonstration of the worshipful spirit that was to lie behind the *physical act* of tithing.

God cares **DEEPLY** about the needy, no matter **WHO** they are, in Deut 4:28/29 we read:

“At the end of three years thou shalt bring forth all the tithe of thine increase the same year and shalt lay it up within thy gates: and the Levite (because he hath no part nor inheritance with thee) and the stranger, and the fatherless, and the widow, which are within thy gates, shall come and shall eat and be satisfied: that the Lord thy God may bless thee in all the work of thine hand which thou does.”

Notice here that the Levite, the Stranger, the Widow and the Fatherless were “to eat and be satisfied”, where normally they would have had to be “satisfied” with whatever they were given to eat! Even so however, none of these needy people were permitted to *carry away* the tithe, keeping it entirely for their own use, it was to stay within the tither’s gates so that **he too** could draw from it according to his own needs, still celebrating God’s Provision for him as he did so.

This is an important point, for in 1 Sam.12/17 we read that *the sons of Eli the Priest caused the Children of Israel to sin*, and subsequently incurred the Wrath Of God because they were taking **whatever they wanted** from any of the sacrifices offered to God by the Children of Israel. They took whatever *cut* they desired and whatever *quantity* they desired, **in direct contradiction of Gods’ Holy Laws**, neglecting even to first offer the sacrifice in the manner prescribed by God. Their arbitrary and greedy handling of Gods’ sacred offerings subsequently **cost them their lives** – does it not occur to *any* of today’s men or women of God (who presumably *believe* what they preach i.e. that tithing IS still required of us today) that if they are *right* in their beliefs **they too**, by commandeering the whole of Gods Holy tenth *for themselves* **may be found guilty by God of misappropriating His Tithe?**

According to the Biblical Concept of tithing their actions have deprived the tither and his family **not only of a period of much-needed rest**, but also of a time of separation before God! God too has been denied the chance **to receive that family’s worship!** In all probability, even the Widows, the Fatherless and the Stranger have been denied the portion that should rightfully have been

theirs, since most Churches donate only **a miniscule** amount **if anything at all** of their total incomes to the needy in the Community, sternly insisting that such dire and extensive needs **MUST** be met out of separate **EXTRA** “donations” **over and above** tithing.

Who then should be **MORE** afraid of Gods’ Judgement? A tithe-hogging Pastor, or a believer who **cannot possibly** pay the full ten percent of his Gross Income **demand**ed of him by some Churches? (In all truth, **one cannot even GRACE** such **sterile legalism** with the name ‘tithing’ since it certainly follows neither **the letter nor the Spirit** of the Law!)

Should the already hard-pressed tither and his family, not to mention the Widow, the Fatherless and the Stranger, **be forced to foot the bill** for the rather **Worldly** aspirations some Pastors have for themselves and their Ministries? Should **they** have to pay for the **HUGE** auditoriums, elaborate Church buildings, expensive homes, private planes, TV Studios, fancy cars, etc. etc...**ad nauseum**, **ALL** of which glorify **MAN** far more than they glorify **God** and **NONE OF WHICH** are of **ANY use or comfort** to the hungry and homeless wandering our streets?

True Believers need to examine themselves **AND** their *individual walk with God today*. They need to **separate themselves** from the Vaudeville ‘performances’ complete with strobe lights, cameras, elaborate sound systems and ‘stars’ (singing or ‘preaching’) that we see all over the World in Theatres or Auditoriums **purporting to be ‘Churches’!** Do Christians **seriously BELIEVE** they are following **Christ’s’ example**, doing what **He** would have them do when they’re **supporting** THESE edifices? Where is Christ’s’ example to be found when the poor and the homeless sit **outside** wondering what it’s **REALLY** all about when **THEIR** lot never changes, when the light and love of Christ that is **supposed** to emanate from these ‘Palaces’ never meets **THEIR** need?

We need a **REFORMATION** in the Church Of God today - **we need to make it HIS Church AGAIN, NOT MANS,** and we must create a Fellowship that **TRULY meets the needs of the people**. We need to go back to the Church of the New Testament when groups of believers gathered in their homes, **sitting together**, sharing the things of God together, **pooling** their resources, (**NOT PAYING FOR SEMI- RELIGIOUS EDIFICES**) and going out and **meeting the needs of those around about them**, praying for the sick, helping the poor – then, and only then, will people know there **IS** a God, and He **DOES** care.

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PLEASE, let no-one tell you that you are “partaking of the tithe” when you attend the Church Buildings your tithes are currently being used to finance, it is NOT the same thing at all, as all the aforementioned Scriptures have surely proved! Using Gods’ Holy Tenth in any manner other than that previously described is WRONG! Nowhere in the Word Of God does it say that the tithe is to be used to build Churches – in fact quite the opposite is true! It is to be used for **PEOPLE**, the New Testament ‘Churches’ consisted of **PEOPLE, NOT BUILDINGS** and any money those people had to spare was to go to help **OTHERS, not for erecting buildings!**

God ‘allowed’ Solomon to build him a Temple because his father, King David had wanted to build one for Him but He had not permitted David to do so. God did not tell Solomon to carry on building ‘mini’ Temples all over the Country after that! Buildings, be they ‘Churches’, Bible Colleges or Youth Halls should always be paid for from separate funds, **NEVER FROM TITHES!** TITHES ARE TO BE USED **FOR PEOPLE BY PEOPLE THAT Gods’ Name might be glorified by their rejoicing, by their giving, and by their caring for others.** Legalism and greed have most dreadfully perverted the whole concept of the tithe, squeezing out all that was beautiful and that once ministered to both man and to God, leaving us merely a dry ritual that not only answers **none** of the spiritual, physical, or emotional needs of the tither (as God intended it should) but instead actually **ADDS** to the heavy burden modern life already places on man’s bowed shoulders. Remember, tithing is about YOU and your relationship with God – it’s purely personal, and purely **DEVOTIONAL and it isn’t about MONEY at all!**

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