

TITHES & OFFERINGS 1 SAM. 12:1-5; ACTS 20:32-35

Introductory thoughts:

- As a young man, I decided that no one would ever be able to accuse me of wanting their money / begging for money / beating people up for money / guilting people for money....

How has that worked out for me?

- I have learned that some never give period!!! Now they will gossip / hate / criticize / judge / lie....

What should be your response to gossip / hate / negativity / criticism / judging / lies...? **Do you tithe & support the church?**

- Tithing is rather easy after salvation!

John Wesley discovered this during the 1st Great Awakening.

Why?

People stop drinking / smoking / gambling and start working

John Wesley's teaching on money:

Make all you can!

Save all you can!

Give all you can!

- That some Baptist pastors are semi health & wealth / health & wealth lite when it comes to finances

Haggai 1:3 Then came the word of the LORD by Haggai the prophet, saying, **Haggai 1:4** *Is it time for you, O ye, to dwell in your cieled houses, and this house lie waste?* **Haggai 1:5** Now therefore thus saith the LORD of hosts; Consider your ways. **Haggai 1:6** 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. **Haggai 1:7** Thus saith the LORD of hosts; Consider your ways. **Haggai 1:8** Go up to the mountain, and bring wood, and build the house; and I will take pleasure in it, and I will be glorified, saith the LORD. **Haggai 1:9** Ye looked for much, and, lo, *it came* to little; and when ye brought *it* home, I did blow upon it. Why? saith the LORD of hosts. Because of mine house that *is* waste, and ye run every man unto his own house. **Haggai 1:10** Therefore the heaven over you is stayed from dew, and the earth is stayed *from* her fruit. **Haggai 1:11** And I called for a drought upon the land, and upon the mountains, and upon the corn, and upon the new wine, and upon the oil, and upon *that* which the ground bringeth forth, and upon men, and upon cattle, and upon all the labour of the hands.

Luke 6:36 Be ye therefore merciful, as your Father also is merciful. **Luke 6:37** Judge not, and ye shall not be judged: condemn not, and ye shall not be condemned: forgive, and ye shall be forgiven: **Luke 6:38** Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again.

However, rarely, if ever, are these texts discussed:

Matthew 8:20 And Jesus saith unto him, The foxes have holes, and the birds of the air *have* nests; but the Son of man hath not where to lay *his* head.

2 Corinthians 8:9 For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich.

Hebrews 11:35 Women received their dead raised to life again: **and others** were tortured, not accepting deliverance; that they might obtain a better resurrection: **Hebrews 11:36** And others had trial of *cruel* mockings and scourgings, yea, moreover of bonds and imprisonment: **Hebrews 11:37** They were stoned, they were sawn asunder, were tempted, were slain with the sword: they wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins; being destitute, afflicted, tormented;

Hebrews 11:38 (**Of whom the world was not worthy:**) they wandered in deserts, and *in* mountains, and *in* dens and caves of the earth.

False motives:	
Greed	Fear
Guilt (although this has an element of truth)	Divine judgement (again this has an element of truth)

Good motives:	
Love	Gratitude
Desire to share	Desire to invest &/ help
Willingly / free will	Obedying Scripture

1 Chronicles 29:14 But who *am* I, and what *is* my people, that we should be able to offer so willingly after this sort? for all things *come* of thee, and of thine own have we given thee.

- **That false motives work ...at least for a while. Afterwards, people are often left feeling bitter & angry and used...!**

Thoughts on Tithing ⁺

1. The Tithe is the Lord's!

Leviticus 27:30 And **all** the tithes 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.** **Leviticus 27:31** And **if** a man will at all redeem *ought* of his tithes, he shall add thereto the fifth *part* thereof. **Leviticus 27:32** And concerning the tithes of the herd, or of the flock, *even* of whatsoever passeth under the rod, **the tenth shall be holy unto the LORD.** **Leviticus 27:33** He shall **not** search whether it be good or bad, neither shall he change it: and if he change it at all, then both it and the change thereof shall be holy; it shall not be redeemed.

What do we know from this text?

1. The tithe is the Lord's
2. The tithe is holy → **sacred / set apart for God and God only!**
3. The tithe includes each & every kind of increase
4. The tithe could be redeemed, but **only so** as to give God the benefit of the doubt
5. The tithe **cannot** be the worst of the crops or worst animals.
Tithe = 10% with the other idea of first and best / firstfruits

This adds a layer of background thought: the firstborn is the best!

Malachi 1:7 Ye offer polluted bread upon mine altar; and ye say, Wherein have we polluted thee? **In that ye say,** The table of the LORD *is* contemptible. **Malachi 1:8** And **if ye offer** the blind for sacrifice, *is it* not evil? and if ye offer the lame and sick, *is it* not evil? **offer it now unto thy governor; will he be pleased with thee, or accept thy person?** saith the LORD of hosts.

There is a more important sub-theme / background teaching: All things come from God & are God's!!!

1 Chronicles 29:14 But who *am* I, and what *is* my people, that we should be able to offer so willingly after this sort? **for all things *come of thee, and of thine own have we given thee.*** **1 Chronicles 29:15** For we *are* strangers before thee, and sojourners, as *were* all our fathers: our days on the earth *are* as a shadow, and *there is* none abiding. **1 Chronicles 29:16** O LORD our God, all this store that we have prepared to build thee an house for thine holy name ***cometh of thine hand, and is all thine own.***

Psalms 24:1 The earth *is* the LORD'S, and the fulness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein.

Acts 17:23 For as I passed by, and beheld your devotions, I found an altar with this inscription, TO THE UNKNOWN GOD. Whom therefore ye ignorantly worship, him declare I unto you. **Acts 17:24** God that made the world and all things therein, seeing that he is Lord of heaven and earth, dwelleth not in temples made with hands; **Acts 17:25** Neither is worshipped with men's hands, as though he needed any thing, **seeing he *giveth to all life, and breath, and all things;*** **Acts 17:28** For in him we live, and move, and have our being....

James 1:17 Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.

1 Timothy 6:17 Charge them that are rich in this world, that they be not highminded, nor trust in uncertain riches, **but in the living God, who *giveth us richly all things to enjoy;***

John 3:16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

II. The tithe is for the Lord's servants and service!

Numbers 18:20 And the LORD spake unto Aaron, **Thou shalt have no inheritance in their land, neither shalt thou have any part among them: *I am thy part and thine inheritance among the children of Israel.*** **Numbers 18:21** And, behold, **I have given the children of Levi all the tenth in Israel for an inheritance, **for their service which they serve, even the service of the tabernacle of the congregation.****

Deuteronomy 12:19 Take heed to thyself that thou **forsake not** the Levite as long as thou livest upon the earth.

Nehemiah 10:34 And we cast the lots among the priests, the Levites, and the people, for the wood offering, to bring *it* into the house of our God, after the houses of our fathers, at times appointed year by year, to burn upon the altar of the LORD our God, as *it is* written in the law: **Nehemiah 10:35** And to bring the **firstfruits** of our ground, and the **firstfruits** of all fruit of all trees, year by year, unto the house of the LORD: **Nehemiah 10:36** Also the **firstborn** of our sons, and of our cattle, **as *it is* written in the law,** and the firstlings of our herds and of our flocks, **to bring to the house of our God, unto the priests that minister in the house of our God:**

Nehemiah 10:37 And *that* we should bring the **firstfruits** of our dough, and our offerings, and the fruit of all manner of trees, of wine and of oil, unto the priests, to the chambers of the house of our God; and the tithes of our ground **unto the Levites, that the same Levites might have the tithes in all the cities of our tillage.** **Nehemiah 10:38** **And the priest the son of Aaron shall be with the Levites, when the Levites take tithes:** and the Levites shall bring up the tithe of the tithes unto the house of our God, to the chambers, into the treasure house. **Nehemiah 10:39** For the children of Israel and the children of Levi shall bring the offering of the corn, of the new wine, and the oil, unto the chambers, where *are* the vessels of the sanctuary, and the priests that minister, and the porters, and the singers: and we will not forsake the house of our God.

Nehemiah 12:43 Also that day they offered great sacrifices, and rejoiced: for God had made them rejoice with great joy: the wives also and the children rejoiced: so that the joy of Jerusalem was heard even afar off. **Nehemiah 12:44** And at that time were some appointed over the chambers for the treasures, **for the offerings, for the firstfruits, and for the tithes, to gather into them out of the fields of the cities the portions of the law for the priests and Levites: for Judah rejoiced for the priests and for the Levites that waited.**

Now what does the NT **teach**?

- It teaches pastors are to be supported
- It teaches that pastors are to be supported for their work
- It teaches that pastors are to be supported from their work

1 Corinthians 9:13 Do ye not know that they which minister about holy things **live of the things** of the temple? and they which wait at the altar are partakers with the altar? **1 Corinthians 9:14** **Even so** hath the Lord ordained that they which preach the gospel should **live of** (ἐκ τοῦ εὐαγγελίου ζῆν) the gospel.

1 Timothy 5:17 Let the elders that rule well be counted worthy of **double honour** (διπλῆς τιμῆς), especially (μάλιστα) **they who labour in the word and doctrine**. **1 Timothy 5:18** **For** the scripture saith, Thou shalt not muzzle the ox that treadeth out the corn. **And**, The labourer *is* worthy of his reward.

Deuteronomy 25:4 Thou shalt not muzzle the ox when he treadeth out *the corn*.

Luke 10:7 And in the same house remain, eating and drinking such things as they give: **for the labourer is worthy of his hire**. Go not from house to house.

Galatians 6:6 Let him that is taught (ὁ κατηχούμενος τὸν λόγον) in the word **communicate** (Κοινωνεῖτω) unto him that teacheth (τῷ κατηχοῦντι) in all good things.

- The NT **nowhere** states where these funds are to be found &/ how they are to be raised.

How did churches traditionally support the ministry?

What problems did this cause?

Is it Biblical? Good? Bad? Neutral?

James 2:1 My brethren, have **not** the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ, *the Lord* of glory, with respect of persons. **James 2:2** **For if** there come unto your assembly a man with a gold ring, in goodly apparel, and there come in also a poor man in vile raiment; **James 2:3** And ye have respect to him that weareth the gay clothing, and say unto him, Sit thou here in a good place; and say to the poor, Stand thou there, or sit here under my footstool: **James 2:4** **Are ye not then partial in yourselves, and are become judges of evil thoughts?** **James 2:5** Hearken, my beloved brethren, **Hath not God** chosen the poor of this world rich in faith, and heirs of the kingdom which he hath promised to them that love him? **James 2:6** But ye have despised the poor. Do not rich men oppress you, and draw you before the judgment seats? **James 2:7** Do not they blaspheme that worthy name by the which ye are called?