

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?

IV. The tithe is **not** an offering!

Tithe = 10%

→ our first / best

Much preaching about & reading about giving is far too superficial. Pastors are sometimes at fault by combining and blurring distinctions:

Tithes:	Offerings:
This is 10%	This is as God has prospered the individual
It is the Lord's	It is a free-will offering
Universal – for all people	Above & beyond the tithe → so never universal

Exodus 25:1 And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, **Exodus 25:2** Speak unto the children of Israel, **that they bring me an offering: of every man that giveth it willingly with his heart ye shall take my offering.**

Exodus 36:4 And all the wise *men*, that wrought all the work of the sanctuary, came every man from his work which they made; **Exodus 36:5** and they spake unto Moses, saying, **The people bring much more than enough for the service of the work, which the LORD commanded to make.** **Exodus 36:6** And Moses gave commandment, and they caused it to be proclaimed throughout the camp, saying, **Let neither man nor woman make any more work for the offering of the sanctuary. So the people were restrained from bringing.** **Exodus 36:7** For the stuff *they had* was **sufficient** for **all** the work to make it, and too much.

1 Chronicles 29:6 Then the chief of the fathers and princes of the tribes of Israel, and the captains of thousands and of hundreds, with the rulers of the king's work, **offered willingly,**

1 Chronicles 29:9 Then the people rejoiced, for that they offered **willingly**, because with perfect heart they offered **willingly** to the LORD: and David the king also **rejoiced with great joy.**

Proverbs 3:27 Withhold not good from them to whom it is due, when it is in the power of thine hand to do *it*. **Proverbs 3:28** Say not unto thy neighbour, Go, and come again, and to morrow I will give; when thou hast it by thee.

In the NT, we find 3 broad kinds of giving:

1. The tithe / Tithing

2. Benevolence offerings

Acts 2:44 And all that believed were together, and had all *things* common; **Acts 2:45** and sold their possessions and goods, and parted them to all *men*, as every *man* had need.

Acts 4:32 And the multitude of them that believed were of one heart and of one soul: neither said any *of them* that ought of the *things* which he possessed was his own; but they had all *things* common. **Acts 4:33** And with great power gave the apostles witness of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus: and great grace was upon them all. **Acts 4:34** Neither was there any among them that lacked: for as many as were possessors of lands or houses sold them, and brought the prices of the *things* that were sold, **Acts 4:35** and laid *them down* at the apostles' feet: and distribution was made unto every man according as he had need.

Acts 4:36 And Joses, who by the apostles was surnamed Barnabas, (which is, being interpreted, The son of consolation,) a Levite, *and* of the country of Cyprus, **Acts 4:37** having land, sold *it*, and brought the money, and laid *it* at the apostles' feet.

[Acts 5:1-11]

Acts 11:27 And in these days came prophets from Jerusalem unto Antioch. **Acts 11:28** And there stood up one of them named Agabus, and signified by the spirit that there should be great dearth throughout all the world: which came to pass in the days of Claudius Cesar. **Acts 11:29** Then the disciples, every man **according to his ability, determined to send relief unto the brethren which dwelt in Judea:** **Acts 11:30** which also they did, and sent it to the elders by the hands of Barnabas and Saul.

Romans 15:25 But now I go unto Jerusalem to minister unto the saints. **Romans 15:26** For it hath pleased *them of* Macedonia and Achaia to make a certain contribution for the poor saints which are at Jerusalem. **Romans 15:27** It hath pleased them verily; and their debtors they are. For if the Gentiles have been made partakers of their spiritual *things*, their

duty is also to minister unto them in carnal *things*. **Romans 15:28** When therefore I have performed this, and have sealed to them this fruit, I will come by you into Spain.

1 Corinthians 16:1 Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I have given order to the churches of Galatia, even so do ye. **1 Corinthians 16:2** Upon the first *day* of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as *God* hath prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come. **1 Corinthians 16:3** And when I come, whomsoever you shall approve by *your* letters, them will I send to bring your liberality unto Jerusalem. **1 Corinthians 16:4** And if it be meet that I go also, they shall go with me.

Galatians 6:10 As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all *men*, especially unto them who are of the household of faith.

1 Timothy 6:18 that *they* do good, that *they* be rich in good works, ready to distribute, willing to communicate;

3. Missions support (this could probably cover “project offerings” also):

Philippians 4:10 But I rejoiced in the Lord greatly, that now at the last *your care of me* hath flourished again; wherein ye were also careful, but ye lacked opportunity. **Philippians 4:11** Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever *state* I am, *therewith* to be content. **Philippians 4:12** I know both *how* to be abased, and I know *how* to abound: every where and in all *things* I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. **Philippians 4:13** I can do all *things* through Christ which strengtheneth me.

Philippians 4:14 **Notwithstanding** ye have well done, that ye did communicate with my affliction. **Philippians 4:15** Now ye **Philippians know also**, that in the beginning of the gospel, when I departed from Macedonia, no church communicated with me as concerning giving and receiving, **but ye only**. **Philippians 4:16** For even in Thessalonica ye sent once and again unto my necessity. **Philippians 4:17** Not because I desire a gift: but I desire fruit that *may* abound to your account. **Philippians 4:18** **But I have all, and abound: I am full, having received of Epaphroditus the things which were sent from you, an odour of a sweet smell, a sacrifice acceptable, well pleasing to God.** **Philippians 4:19** But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

3 John 5 Beloved, thou doest faithfully whatsoever thou doest to the brethren, and to strangers;

3 John 6 which have borne witness of thy charity before the church: whom **if thou bring forward (προπέμψας)** on their journey after a godly sort, thou shalt do well: **3 John 7** because that **for his name’s sake they went forth, taking nothing of the Gentiles**. **3 John 8** We therefore ought to receive such, that we might be fellowhelpers to the truth.

Acts 15:3 And being brought on their way (προπεμφθέντες) by (ὕπὸ τῆς ἐκκλησίας) the church, they passed through Phenice and Samaria, declaring the conversion of the Gentiles: and they caused great joy unto all the brethren.

Romans 15:24 whensoever I take my journey into Spain, I will come to you: for I trust to see you in my journey, and **to be brought on my way (ὕφ’ ὑμῶν προπεμφθῆναι) thitherward by you**, if first I be somewhat filled with your *company*.

1 Corinthians 16:6 And it may be that I will abide, yea, and winter with you, **that ye may bring me (προπέμψητε)** on my journey whithersoever I go.

2 Corinthians 1:16 and to pass by you into Macedonia, and to come again out of Macedonia unto you, and **of you to be brought on my way (ὕφ’ ὑμῶν προπεμφθῆναι)** toward Judea.

Titus 3:13 **Bring** Zenas the lawyer and Apollos **on their journey (πρόπεμψον)** diligently, that nothing be wanting unto them.