

## Tithing

Discipleship is a Relationship

1. With God
2. With Family
3. With the Church
4. With the Lost

Suggested Memory Verse

Matthew 22:21

### Purpose: To define tithing and stress the importance of financial giving to God

Introduction: WHAT IS A TITHE?

- A. The Greek words *de kate meris* mean “a tenth part” and come from *deka*. The Greek word for “ten”.
- B. A tithe is a tenth part of a person’s income which is given to God.
  1. In the Old Testament, it was given in the form of grain, fruit, wine, oil, silver, gold, sheep, goats, or cattle.
- C. Tithing is the paying of the first 10% of all your income to the Lord’s work through the church.
  1. This percentage is set by God – not by the individual or the church.
  2. In spiritual terms, “offerings” begin only after we have first paid tithe.
  3. We *pay* our tithes – we *give* our offerings.

WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THE TITHE?

- A. It is a reminder that God is the source of our income and our blessings – our life, our health, our opportunities, our talents.
- B. It is our way of saying “Thank You” to God.

I. What does the Old Testament have to say about tithing?

- A. Find the command in Leviticus 27:31-32 and write it out here.
- B. Find the command in Deuteronomy 12:5-6; 12:11, 17 and write it out here.
- C. Find the command in Deuteronomy 26:12-15 and write it out here.
- D. What was the response of the Israelites to the above three commands? (2 Chronicles 31:5-6)
- E. What was their response in 2 Chronicles 31:12?
- F. What did Malachi say the Israelites were doing if they did not bring the tithe? Malachi 3:6-12
- G. What promise was given if they brought the tithe into the storehouse?

II. What does Jesus have to say about financially giving to God?

- A. The Pharisees would have kept the command of tithing as given by Moses. In Matthew 5:20, what does Jesus say about our righteousness as compared to that of the Pharisees?

## (Tithing Continued)

B. What else does Jesus say about financial giving?

Matthew 6:19-21

Matthew 6:24

Matthew 22:21

Luke 6:38

III. What did the apostles teach about giving in the book of Acts?

A. Acts 20:35

B. Acts 2:44-45

C. Acts 4:32-35

IV. What else does the New Testament say about financial giving?

A. 2 Corinthians 9:6-11

B. 2 Corinthians 8:12

C. 2 Corinthians 9:15

As we think of the amount we will give to God, we should think of the gift He gave us (Jesus).

(Refer to cross lesson.)

D. Acts 5:1-10

V. How is tithing for all ages?

A. Leviticus 27:31-32 It was one of God's basic principles under the Old Covenant.

B. Matthew 22:21 Jesus commands that we give to God what belongs to God.

C. Matthew 6:33 Christ taught that if we seek the Kingdom of God first, then "all these things will be added to us."

D. Acts 4:32-35 The New Testament church members gave far in excess of the tithe.

VI. How can I practically afford to give if I can't afford it?

A. Illustration: A young man promised to God in a preacher's presence to give 10% of all future income to God. His income increased from \$100 dollars a week to \$1,000 a week. Then the young man returned to the preacher saying he couldn't afford to tithe. The preacher said, "Let's pray that God will reduce your income back to \$100 a week so you can afford to tithe!"

B. Eliminate waste

C. Increase your income

## (Tithing Continued)

CONCLUSION: What have you learned?

- A. What is a tithe?
- B. What is its history in the Bible?
- C. Should I give at least a tenth of my income?
- D. Will God bless me if I tithe? Refer to Malachi 3:10 and 2 Corinthians 9:6-11
- E. Who will benefit if I tithe?
  1. It will benefit me first if I do – reliance upon God to supply every need.
  2. The tithe will also benefit the kingdom of God.