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## **Tithing: Is It For Today?**

Tithing. A hot topic for many. But, should it be?

We find it interesting how that the majority of ministers today say that the law is no longer for us to follow, yet they are quick to say how you should still pay your tithes. All the while knowing that tithing is straight ... from The Law. The very thing they say we no longer have to follow. Yet, this particular instruction ... well, you know, it still applies.

So... let's address the big question right off the bat ... Does tithing still apply today? The big answer ... No, it doesn't.

It is generally believed that the tithing system was set up for the Levites and the Priests. And this is true ... In part. As we will find in this teaching, there were other tithes that were not designated, to go to the Priests in general.

Scripturally speaking, there are basically four types of tithes ...

- The Levitical Tithe
- The Festival Tithe
- The Poor Tithe
- And the Priest's Tithe

We will go over these with a basic understanding of them, but it must be understood from the beginning that all tithes were intended for either the Priests, Levites or simply brought to the temple for other purposes. Since there are no Priests, Levites or Temple in existence today, *biblically speaking*, you can't tithe. In obedience to the command, anyway. This is not to say that one can't willingly give 10% to a ministry, or even split it up among several ministries. It simply means that one cannot obey these instructions as directed in the Scriptures. Ministers have no Biblical foundation to say that the paying of tithes has been transferred, and is now to be paid to the modern church.

Yet still, many ministers today will tell you that you are sinning by not obeying in giving tithes to the church. But again, no one can tithe as instructed in the Scriptures. It's literally ... impossible. Let's look

at the four basic types of tithes as given in the Scriptures, and see why.

**First, the Levitical Tithe.** This is given by all Israel to the Levites.

**Numbers 18:21-24**

I give to the Levites all the tithes in Israel as their inheritance in return for the work they do while serving at the Tent of Meeting. From now on the Israelites must not go near the Tent of Meeting, or they will bear the consequences of their sin and will die. It is the Levites who are to do the work at the Tent of Meeting and bear the responsibility for offenses against it. This is a lasting ordinance for the generations to come. They will receive no inheritance among the Israelites. Instead, I give to the Levites as their inheritance the tithes that the Israelites present as an offering to the LORD. That is why I said concerning them: ‘They will have no inheritance among the Israelites.’”

**Then we have the Festival Tithe.** This is the tithe that is actually set apart... for you. Yes, you heard that right. For you. We don't hear pastors talking about this tithe, do we?

It's designed to make sure that you have what you need for you and your friends at the Festivals, ... the feast days. To basically throw a big party. Seriously. To have a big feast celebrating... the Holy days.

The instructions for this tithe are that one is to take their tithe to where the Temple will be, which became Jerusalem, and celebrate the festivals there with their tithes. If they lived too far away from where the temple was, they were to sell their tithe, take the money they made from it and go to the city where the temple was and then spend that money on the provisions needed for the Festival. Compare...

**Deuteronomy 14:22-27**

Be sure to set aside a tenth of all that your fields produce each year. Eat the tithe of your grain, new wine and oil, and the firstborn of your herds and flocks in the presence of the LORD your God at the place he will choose as a dwelling for his Name, so that you may learn to revere the LORD your God always. But if that place is too distant and you have been blessed by the LORD your God and cannot carry your tithe (because the place where the LORD will choose to put his Name is so far away), then exchange your tithe for silver, and take the silver with you and go to the place the LORD your God will choose. Use the silver to buy whatever you like: cattle, sheep, wine or other fermented drink, or anything you wish. Then you and your household shall eat there in the presence of the LORD your God and rejoice. And do not neglect the Levites living in your towns, for they have no allotment or inheritance of their own.

It is during these feast days in which the Israelites go, that the men are to appear before the Lord. And they are not to appear empty-handed. Compare...

**Deuteronomy. 16:16-17**

Three times a year all your men must appear before the LORD your God at the place he will choose: at the Feast of Unleavened Bread, the Feast of Weeks and the Feast of Tabernacles. No man should appear before the LORD empty-handed: Each of you must bring a gift in proportion to the way the LORD your God has blessed you.

If you notice here in verse 17, they are NOT required to bring a tithe before the Lord here. But rather a

gift in proportion to how they were blessed.

This is also mentioned in verse 10...

**Deuteronomy. 16:10**

Then celebrate the Feast of Weeks to the LORD your God by giving a freewill offering in proportion to the blessings the LORD your God has given you.

From here, we have what is referred to as the **Poor Tithe**. These are the provisions that were given to those in need....

**Deuteronomy. 14:28-29**

At the end of every three years, bring all the tithes of that year's produce and store it in your towns, so that the Levites (who have no allotment or inheritance of their own) and the aliens, the fatherless and the widows who live in your towns may come and eat and be satisfied, and so that the LORD your God may bless you in all the work of your hands.

It is again referred to in chapter 26...

**Deuteronomy. 26:12**

When you have finished setting aside a tenth of all your produce in the third year, the year of the tithe, you shall give it to the Levite, the alien, the fatherless and the widow, so that they may eat in your towns and be satisfied.

From there, we have the **Priest's Tithe**. These tithes were to be paid by the Levites and went to the Priest's. Consider ...

**Numbers 18:25-32**

The LORD said to Moses, Speak to the Levites and say to them: 'When you receive from the Israelites the tithe I give you as your inheritance, you must present a tenth of that tithe as the LORD's offering. Your offering will be reckoned to you as grain from the threshing floor or juice from the winepress. In this way you also will present an offering to the LORD from all the tithes you receive from the Israelites. From these tithes you must give the LORD's portion to Aaron the priest. You must present as the LORD's portion the best and holiest part of everything given to you.' Say to the Levites: 'When you present the best part, it will be reckoned to you as the product of the threshing floor or the winepress. You and your households may eat the rest of it anywhere, for it is your wages for your work at the Tent of Meeting. By presenting the best part of it you will not be guilty in this matter; then you will not defile the holy offerings of the Israelites, and you will not die.'

The Levites and priests were set apart for their position when Moses first received the instructions from Yahweh. Because of this position, they were not given land as the other tribes were.

**Deuteronomy. 18:1-2**

The priests, who are Levites — indeed the whole tribe of Levi — are to have no allotment or inheritance with Israel. They shall live on the offerings made to the LORD by fire, for that is their inheritance. They shall have no inheritance among their brothers; the LORD is their

inheritance, as he promised them.

They were allowed cities but not Territories. They had 48 cities within the other tribes' territories.

### **Numbers 35:7**

In all you must give the Levites forty-eight towns, together with their pasturelands.

The Levites were given the tithes in return for their work in the Temple.

The tithes they received were livestock, grains and fruit. And the tithe was to be the BEST of what you had.

Along this line, one could substitute their tithe with money instead, but they were actually charged 20% for doing so.

### **Leviticus 27:30-34**

And all the tithe of the land, whether of the seed of the land or of the fruit of the tree, is (Yahweh's) the LORD'S. It is holy to (Yahweh) the LORD. If a man wants at all to redeem any of his tithes, he shall add one-fifth to it. And concerning the tithe of the herd or the flock, of whatever passes under the rod, the tenth one shall be holy to (Yahweh) the LORD. He shall not inquire whether it is good or bad, nor shall he exchange it; and if he exchanges it at all, then both it and the one exchanged for it shall be holy; it shall not be redeemed. These are the commandments which (Yahweh) the LORD commanded Moses for the children of Israel on Mount Sinai.

There are two ways of interpreting this...

1) If you chose to redeem your tithe, you are to add 1/5 of the total value to the tithe. Thus, it would go from 10% to 30% because of adding the 1/5, which is adding 20%.

2) If you chose to redeem your tithe, you are to add 1/5 of the value of the tithe. 1/5 of 10% is 2%. Thus resulting in 12% being what is to be paid as a result of paying in the form of money.

Either of these two interpretations could be correct, depending on one's view of the Hebrew text.

However, the point here is simply that there was a penalty for paying in the form of money instead of that which came from the crops, flocks or herds.

A general understanding is that all male Levites were or became priests. But this is not so. Only the descendants of Aaron were the priests. They were indeed Levites, but only they were to be the priests. However, the rest of the male Levites were to be servants for the priests.

### **Exodus 28:41**

After you put these clothes on your brother Aaron and his sons, anoint and ordain them. Consecrate them so they may serve me as priests.

And verse 43 ...

**Exodus 28:43**

Aaron and his sons must wear them whenever they enter the Tent of Meeting or approach the altar to minister in the Holy Place, so that they will not incur guilt and die. “This is to be a lasting ordinance for Aaron and his descendants.

**Exodus 29:9**

and put headbands on them. Then tie sashes on Aaron and his sons. The priesthood is theirs by a lasting ordinance. In this way you shall ordain Aaron and his sons.

**Exodus 29:44**

So I will consecrate the Tent of Meeting and the altar and will consecrate Aaron and his sons to serve me as priests.

**Leviticus 6:9**

Give Aaron and his sons this command: ‘These are the regulations for the burnt offering: The burnt offering is to remain on the altar hearth throughout the night, till morning, and the fire must be kept burning on the altar.

**Leviticus 7:35**

This is the portion of the offerings made to the LORD by fire that were allotted to Aaron and his sons on the day they were presented to serve the LORD as priests.

**Leviticus 21:1**

The LORD said to Moses, “Speak to the priests, the sons of Aaron, and say to them: ‘A priest must not make himself ceremonially unclean for any of his people who die,

**Numbers 18:1**

The LORD said to Aaron, “You, your sons and your father’s family are to bear the responsibility for offenses against the sanctuary, and you and your sons alone are to bear the responsibility for offenses against the priesthood.

So it is clear that only the descendants of Aaron are to be Priests in the earthly temple. Even Yeshua himself, our High Priest in Heaven is forbidden to be a priest in the earthly temple. Compare...

**Hebrews 8:4**

If he were on earth, he would not be a priest, for there are already men who offer the gifts prescribed by the law.

**Hebrews 8:5**

They serve at a sanctuary that is a copy and shadow of what is in heaven. This is why Moses was warned when he was about to build the tabernacle: “See to it that you make everything according to the pattern shown you on the mountain.”

Again, the earthly priesthood is set apart only for the descendants of Aaron.

The rest of the Levites were given to the descendants of Aaron as helpers.

### **Numbers 18:2-7**

Bring your fellow Levites from your ancestral tribe to join you and assist you when you and your sons minister before the Tent of the Testimony. They are to be responsible to you and are to perform all the duties of the Tent, but they must not go near the furnishings of the sanctuary or the altar, or both they and you will die. They are to join you and be responsible for the care of the Tent of Meeting — all the work at the Tent — and no one else may come near where you are. You are to be responsible for the care of the sanctuary and the altar, so that wrath will not fall on the Israelites again. I myself have selected your fellow Levites from among the Israelites as a gift to you, dedicated to the LORD to do the work at the Tent of Meeting. But only you and your sons may serve as priests in connection with everything at the altar and inside the curtain. I am giving you the service of the priesthood as a gift. Anyone else who comes near the sanctuary must be put to death.”

This is why we see Korah’s rebellion in Numbers 16. Korah was a Levite. Yet that obviously wasn’t enough for him. Consider...

### **Numbers 16:8-11**

Moses also said to Korah, “Now listen, you Levites! Isn’t it enough for you that the God of Israel has separated you from the rest of the Israelite community and brought you near himself to do the work at the LORD’s tabernacle and to stand before the community and minister to them? He has brought you and all your fellow Levites near himself, but now you are trying to get the priesthood too. It is against the LORD that you and all your followers have banded together. Who is Aaron that you should grumble against him?”

The problem with Korah’s rebellion is that it wasn’t only Levites that joined him. There were others as well.

### **Numbers 16:1-2**

Korah son of Izhar, the son of Kohath, the son of Levi, and certain Reubenites — Dathan and Abiram, sons of Eliab, and On son of Peleth — became insolent and rose up against Moses. With them were 250 Israelite men, well-known community leaders who had been appointed members of the council.

As Moses said, though they were grumbling against Aaron, it was Yahweh who they really were opposing.

Though the Levites who were not from Aaron were not priests, they still received tithes as their wages ...

### **Numbers 18:21**

I give to the Levites all the tithes in Israel as their inheritance in return for the work they do while serving at the Tent of Meeting.

In all of this, it is clear that these tithes went to the Priests and the Levites for their duties in the Temple.

Nowhere in the scriptures do we see the tithes transferred from them on to pastors or teachers. This is not to say that we cannot help these individuals. For even Paul was assisted by the believers. But these were offerings and not tithes. This must be understood. Again, nowhere in the scriptures are we directed

to pay these tithes to anyone other than as directed regarding the Levites and the Priests. There is just no way around it.

We do find Paul discussing that we should be cheerful givers and that we reap according to how we sow.

**2 Corinthians 9:6-7**

Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

Giving is something we are encouraged to grow in.

**2 Corinthians 8:7**

But just as you excel in everything — in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in your love for us — see that you also excel in this grace of giving.

So even though Biblical tithing is not something we can do today, we can still give to those ministers that spread the eternal gospel. Like those who supported Paul. But it's not just in supporting "ministries". Consider...

**James 1:27**

Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.

And let us not forget Matthew 25

**Matthew 25:31-40**

When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his throne in heavenly glory. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left. Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.' Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?' The King will reply, 'I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.'

And what of those on His left? They didn't do these things. ... And they didn't enter in either.

Again, this is not to say that one can't give 10% to their church. It's simply saying that if one chooses to do so, that it is simply considered a freewill offering as it is not going to that which is prescribed in the Scriptures.

We know that many refer to Malachi 3 in saying that we should still tithe today. Let's look at it. But let's read verse 7, which is often overlooked.

It says...

### **Malachi 3:7-10**

“Ever since the time of your forefathers you have turned away from my decrees and have not kept them. Return to me, and I will return to you,” says the LORD Almighty. “But you ask, ‘How are we to return?’ ‘Will a man rob God? Yet you rob me. “But you ask, ‘How do we rob you?’ “In tithes and offerings. You are under a curse — the whole nation of you — because you are robbing me. Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this,” says the LORD Almighty, “and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it.”

This is all about returning to the decrees found in the law.

“you have turned away from my decrees and have not kept them.”

Returning to His decrees. ... And as shown in these verses, ... tithing is one of those decrees.

Yet, as noted before, tithing is something that we are unable to do today with no Levites, Priests or temple. We are in a similar circumstances like those taken captive to Babylon. They were unable to obey all of the law since they no longer had the temple.

Yet there are many elements of the law that we can return to. And so, like Daniel living in Babylon, we pursue all that we can. Though tithing is not one of them.

But what about Yeshua? Surely He said something about tithing that the New Testament believers could follow regarding this topic.

However, His words on tithing were very few. In fact, the one time we see Him addressing it was when He was slamming the Pharisee's for their hypocrisy. Consider His words...

### **Matthew 23:23**

“Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You give a tenth of your spices — mint, dill and cumin. But you have neglected the more important matters of the law — justice, mercy and faithfulness. You should have practiced the latter, without neglecting the former.

The Pharisee's were faithful in their tithing. So let's give them credit where credit is due. However, let's look at Yeshua's words again.

### **Matthew 23:23**

“Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You give a tenth of your spices — mint, dill and cummin. **But you have neglected the more important matters of the law — justice, mercy and faithfulness. You should have practiced the latter, without neglecting the former.**

**“But you have neglected the more important matters of the law”**

Was tithing important? Of course it was, but it was considered something basic, ... elementary, ... something that required little effort to obey. Yet the Pharisee's made it something that they focused so heavily on ... that they neglected the more important matters of the law —including justice, mercy and faithfulness.

For if they had focused on these, the tithing would have come naturally.

Yet in all of this, there is still no words of instruction to transfer the tithes to someone else.

Many have said that, just as Abraham paid tithes to Melchizedek before the Levites and Priesthood, we now pay them to the pastors of churches today. This sounds good. But we have no instructions given for that anywhere in the Scriptures. Nowhere are we informed to pay tithes to pastors or to the churches. There is no doubt that we are instructed to give. Just not tithing.

There are many questions that surround tithing in regard to whom they would have been paid to BEFORE the law as given through Moses. There was no temple. No Levites or Priests through Aaron. Yet, as already mentioned, we know that not all tithes went to the priests. They also went to the poor, as already mentioned in Deuteronomy 14:28 and 29.

Could this have been where they went before? Possibly.

Yet, we also know that tithes were given to Melchizedek. One who was noted as a Priest.

Melchizedek means "*King of Righteousness*".

Many refer to the time when Abram, later known as Abraham, gave a tenth to Melchizedek king of Salem. He was noted as a priest of Yahweh. Though little is known about Melchizedek, Abram did, in fact, give a tenth of the spoils from the war that he and his family fought to save Lot. Many refer to this verse now in saying that we should tithe to the church today.

But if we are to use this verse to support tithing for today, what about the other 90%? What did Abram do with that? Let's find out. ...

#### **Genesis 14:18-24**

Then Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine. He was priest of God Most High, and he blessed Abram, saying, "Blessed be Abram by God Most High, Creator of heaven and earth. And blessed be God Most High, who delivered your enemies into your hand." Then Abram gave him a tenth of everything. The king of Sodom said to Abram, "Give me the people and keep the goods for yourself." But Abram said to the king of Sodom, "I have raised my hand to (Yahweh) the LORD, (Elohim) God Most High, Creator of heaven and earth, and have taken an oath that I will accept nothing belonging to you, not even a thread or the thong of a sandal, so that you will never be able to say, 'I made Abram rich.' I will accept nothing but what my men have eaten and the share that belongs to the men who went with me — to Aner, Eshcol and Mamre. Let them have their share." He gave the rest to the others.

The bottom line here is, if we are going to use this verse in saying we should pay tithes to the church, then we also have to say that we are to give the other 90% to others.

But again, as noted before, there are no instructions found anywhere in the Scriptures for us to do such a thing.

Then we have Jacob in Genesis 28:20-22.

**Genesis 28:20-22**

Then Jacob made a vow, saying, “If God will be with me and will watch over me on this journey I am taking and will give me food to eat and clothes to wear so that I return safely to my father’s house, then the LORD will be my God and this stone that I have set up as a pillar will be God’s house, and of all that you give me I will give you a tenth.”

Yet we see no one to whom he would have paid the tithes to.

Was there another in the line of Melchizedek that he was going to give to? No one knows. There is nothing given in how Jacob filled this vow.

The topic of tithing is very vague, to say the least, before it is given through Moses in the law.

Before these two isolated instances for Abram and Jacob, we see no Scriptures to indicate tithing was a regular part of their lives. We’re not saying it wasn’t, only that the Scriptures are silent to us in how this would have been a part of their everyday living.

Again, as noted before, though we are unable to Biblically tithe, this does not mean that we shouldn’t give to the Father through those who serve. For the Father truly does love a cheerful giver.

One example of a free will offering is found in Exodus 35

**Exodus 35:5**

From what you have, take an offering for the LORD. Everyone who is willing is to bring to the LORD an offering of gold, silver and bronze;

**Exodus 35:21-22**

and everyone who was willing and whose heart moved him came and brought an offering to the LORD for the work on the Tent of Meeting, for all its service, and for the sacred garments. All who were willing, men and women alike, came and brought gold jewelry of all kinds: brooches, earrings, rings and ornaments. They all presented their gold as a wave offering to the LORD.

**Exodus 35:26**

And all the women who were willing and had the skill spun the goat hair.

**Exodus 35:29**

All the Israelite men and women who were willing brought to the LORD freewill offerings for all the work the LORD through Moses had commanded them to do.

Then one chapter later we find ...

**Exodus 36:6-7**

Then Moses gave an order and they sent this word throughout the camp: “No man or woman is

to make anything else as an offering for the sanctuary.” And so the people were restrained from bringing more, because what they already had was more than enough to do all the work.

Our prayer for you is that you give as the Father directs you. But when you do give, don't give reluctantly. Give thankfully, from a joyous heart. We pray that you seek the Father in where you should give your offerings and support.

And please know that, you don't have to have money ... for money to have you. You don't have to be rich ... to be greedy. You don't have to have a lot of money ... to serve money.

The Father wants us all to grow from where we are at. But we must be focused on serving Him and no other.

### **Luke 16:13**

No servant can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and Money.

Money is not the root of all evil. It's the *love of money* that is the root of all kinds of evil....

### **1 Timothy 6:10**

For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.

Where do you stand in regard to loving money? Seriously. Think about it for a moment. It's OK to have money ...just don't let money have you.

Many believe that Ananias and Sapphira were killed for not giving all their money from the sale of their property like many others were doing in the book Acts.

But this is truly not the case. The money was theirs to do with whatever they wanted. The problem was that they kept some of the money back, while wanting everyone to think that they were giving it all.

Consider...

### **Acts 4:34-5:5**

There were no needy persons among them. For from time to time those who owned lands or houses sold them, brought the money from the sales and put it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to anyone as he had need. Joseph, a Levite from Cyprus, whom the apostles called Barnabas (which means Son of Encouragement), sold a field he owned and brought the money and put it at the apostles' feet. Now a man named Ananias, together with his wife Sapphira, also sold a piece of property. With his wife's full knowledge, he kept back part of the money for himself, but brought the rest and put it at the apostles' feet. Then Peter said, "Ananias, how is it that Satan has so filled your heart that you have lied to the Holy Spirit and have kept for yourself some of the money you received for the land? Didn't it belong to you before it was sold? And after it was sold, wasn't the money at your disposal? What made you think of doing such a thing? You have not lied to men but to God." When Ananias heard this, he fell down and died. And great fear seized all who heard what had happened.

Again, the money was theirs. It was their choice to do whatever they wanted with it.

But they wanted others to think they gave it all like the others who gave all.

So did the money have them? Quite possibly. Along with the pride of wanting others to think that they were doing something that they really weren't.

They wanted to be seen in what they were doing. Consider now the words of Yeshua in what we should do about being seen in doing something for the Father.

#### **Matthew 6:1-4**

Be careful not to do your 'acts of righteousness' before men, to be seen by them. If you do, you will have no reward from your Father in heaven. So when you give to the needy, do not announce it with trumpets, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and on the streets, to be honored by men. I tell you the truth, they have received their reward in full. But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your giving may be in secret. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.

Don't make it your goal to be seen in your service to Him. Yet this was what Ananias and Sapphira were doing. They wanted to be seen. And so they lied about the money they were giving.

Don't let money be the driving force in how you live your life. Remember the words of Yeshua ...

#### **Matthew 6:19-21**

Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Where is your heart today? Do you serve money? Many would brush this question aside as a joke. But we ask that you examine your heart to see what motivates you in regard to money or even things ... which is purchased by money.

Did you know that the Scriptures tell us that we are a servant to whom we owe money?

#### **Proverbs 22:7**

The rich rule over the poor, and the borrower is servant to the lender.

So, is this wrong? Of course not. We just can't leave that debt as is...

#### **Romans 13:7-8**

Give everyone what you owe him: If you owe taxes, pay taxes; if revenue, then revenue; if respect, then respect; if honor, then honor. Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for he who loves his fellowman has fulfilled the law.

Again, we see no scripture that says being in debt is a sin. However, the deeper that one is in debt, the less they are able to give to the furtherance of the kingdom.

And we must never forget as Acts 20:35 says...

**Acts 20:35**

... remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'

Though these exact words of Yeshua are not recorded in the New Testament, we do have a similar instance to refer to ...

**Luke 14:12-14**

Then Jesus said to his host, 'When you give a luncheon or dinner, do not invite your friends, your brothers or relatives, or your rich neighbors; if you do, they may invite you back and so you will be repaid. But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, and you will be blessed. Although they cannot repay you, you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.'

When we are unable to give to the Lord through any ministry or personal assistance, we are only robbing ourselves of blessings that last for eternity.

*So in conclusion, ...*

We are unable to do the biblical tithe as instructed in the Scriptures. But this does not negate the fact that the Father does indeed love a cheerful giver and that we are indeed blessed if we give.

Seek the Father for where He would have you give and invest into His kingdom today. We hope you have enjoyed this study. Remember, continue to test everything.

Shalom

*For more on this and other teachings, please visit us at [www.testeverything.net](http://www.testeverything.net)*

**Shalom, and may Yahweh bless you in walking in the whole Word of God.**

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