



WORD OF FAITH INT'L CHRISTIAN CENTER

TEACHING THE WORD. DOING THE WORK. TOUCHING THE WORLD.

To Tithe or Not to Tithe

by Bishop Keith Butler | Bible Study Notes | Wednesday, July 6, 2022

Text: Heb. 7:1-17

Opening Summary

The purpose of this teaching is to give a biblical view on one of the most vital acts in the Bible: tithing. We will study what the tithe is, the reason Christians should tithe, the connection between the law and the New Covenant, and Paul's teachings about the tithe. There has been a recent teaching, by a world-renowned minister of the gospel and one of my colleagues, that tithing is not correct. However, I have a responsibility to the WOFICC congregation and those that follow our ministry to reiterate the blessing of the tithe.

I. Should we tithe?

- A. It was stated that tithing is religion used by people to produce "fear and guilt."
- B. It was stated that tithing is solely of the law, an "Old Testament concept."
- C. That person came to that conclusion based on their understanding of grace.
- D. I encourage you to get my book entitled, "Grace vs. Judgment: Which One Is It?" to help lead you to the Scripture so you can have a better understanding of God's grace.
- E. About ten years ago, there was a controversy about the teaching on grace and some churches split over it.
- F. If your understanding of grace is wrong, it can take you to this issue at hand.

II. A *tithe* (Web. dictionary 1828 ed.) is *the tenth part of anything*.

III. Is tithing just an antiquated Old Testament device?

- A. There are issues in the law that pre-dated the law.
- B. Those issues were included in the law and those issues continue to this day.

IV. What is this concept all about?

- A. Gen. 1:26: From the beginning God gave man dominion over the earth (Psa. 8:4-6).
- B. God has put in man's control things that belong to Him, that man is not to touch.
- C. Gen. 2:17: Starting with Adam, God gave mankind dominion over the earth, including the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Then He told them not to touch it, because it is reserved for Him.
- D. From the beginning, God praised those who gave Him their first and best.
 1. Gen. 4:1-5: Abel and Cain: Abel brought "of the fat" (richest part) "of his flock."

- a. The first family understood they must give the Lord the first and best part of their increase.
 - b. Cain made an offering that was not his best.
 - c. The offering Abel made was the best part of what he had.
 - d. Gen. 4:4: God respected Abel's offering and not Cain's.
2. Gen. 14:18: Melchizedek is both a priest and king of the Most High God.
 3. Gen. 14:20: Abram gave tithes to Melchizedek before the law was installed.
 - a. Gen. 15:13-14: This is more than 400 years before the law was given.
 - b. The law was given by Moses. He doesn't come on the scene until the children of Israel are in bondage.

V. Why was the law installed in the first place?

- A. Gal. 3:19: *Transgressions* (Gk.: parabasis) means *violations*.
- B. They transgressed things they knew were wrong.
 1. Deu. 5:16: Before the law men were required to honor their parents. They knew, before the law, that they should be kind, nice and honorable to their parents (Eph. 6:2).
 - a. God codified these things so man couldn't say they didn't know.
 - b. Rom. 1:18-21: God says even the unsaved man knows He exists by looking at nature.
 - c. God doesn't accept that you didn't know until it was written in the law.
 2. Eph. 6:1-2: After the law, Paul teaches the church from the Old Testament to honor their parents. Jesus, Himself, taught Paul (2 Cor. 12:1-7).
- C. How do you know if something in the law is still for us today? If something from the law is also written in the New Testament, it is for us today.

VI. Why did Abram give Melchizedek 10%?

- A. Pro. 3:9: *Substance* (Hb.:) means *wealth*.
 1. *Firstfruits* means *the first in place, time, order or rank, the beginning and the principal thing*. It doesn't mean whether you think you can afford it.
 2. The tithe is progressive. The tithe on 100 is 10. The tithe on 1000 is 100.
- B. Abram paid tithes to Melchizedec, a priest and king of the most High God.
 1. Heb. 5:5-6: Jesus is made in the same way as Melchizedec, a king and priest of the most high God.
 2. Jesus is THE King of kings, and our great High Priest of things pertaining to God. We see that all through the book of Hebrews (Heb. 4:14-16).
 3. Heb. 6:20: Jesus is made in the same way as Melchizedec. In Melchizedec, God shows what He will do in the future in Christ Jesus.
 4. Heb. 7:1-17: Melchizedec was the forerunner of Jesus himself.
 5. Melchizedec pronounces the blessing over Abram, because Abram had victory.
 6. Like Jesus, he was both a king and priest.
 7. There is no record of his beginning and end.
 8. All this was before the law!

- E. Heb. 7:1-5: Tithing continues through the law with the Levitical priests.
 - 1. Heb. 7:1-4: Before the law it was Abram. Now it's Abraham (Gen. 17:5).
 - a. Abram is what he was called before his covenant with God.
 - b. After he received the covenant, God changed his name to Abraham.
 - 2. Heb. 7:5: The law is given for the Levitical priests to receive tithes of the people.
 - 3. Heb. 7:6-8: This is after the law.
 - 4. The less (Abraham) is blessed by the better (Melchisedec).
 - 5. Melchisedec is before the law.
 - 6. Heb. 7:8: *Witnessed* (Gk.: *martureo*) means *bear record, testified*. Jesus is alive!!
 - 7. *There* (Gk.: *ekei*) means *yonder place*.
 - 8. Heb. 7:9-10: Levi paid tithes not in "Abram," but in "Abraham" (now, the father of faith of us all).
 - 9. When Abraham paid tithes, his seed also paid tithes.
 - 10. Gal. 3:29: You are Abraham's seed. The Blessing comes from the tithe.
 - 11. God received Abel's tithe.
 - 12. When Abraham gave tithes, he set up the blessing for us.

VII. Rev. 1:5-6: Jesus made us kings and priests unto God and His Father!!

- A. Abram paid his tithe to Melchisedec.
- B. We give our tithes to the one that blesses us today, Jesus!!!!
- C. We offer to God our best, our richest part.

VIII. The statement was made that people give tithes out of fear and guilt.

- A. One man can't cast aspersions on millions of other ministers, for what they teach. Nor can one person assume they know the motives behind what someone teaches.
- B. I speak for myself. I have tithed all my saved life. In our younger years, my wife and I gave tithes of pencils and cheap jewelry when we had nothing else to give. God continued to bless us.
- C. A person in my church said he tithed until he started making millions. He said that's too much money. He forgot it was God causing him to prosper.
- D. I am probably one of the biggest tithers in my church.
- E. Why do I tithe?
 - 1. I don't tithe out of fear or guilt.
 - 2. I tithe out of love, out of obedience and out of faith.
 - 3. ***I'm glad to give a tenth and more!!!!!!***

Closing Summary

This teaching is to help Christians know what they believe according to the Scripture. Study the Scriptures for yourself, and allow the Lord to reveal His Word and His will for you and His desire to see you blessed.