

TITHES, OFFERINGS & STEWARDSHIP

A Steward is a Christian (believer) who is a keeper of God's gifts and Graces. (I Peter 4:10)

I. What is a tithe?

A tithe is **1/10** of what God has entrusted you with and the minimum that He demands you to return to Him. (Malachi 3:7-15)

II. What is an offering?

An offering is a free will gift which is over and above the basic tithe. It is one of the ways of saying "Thank You" to God. He demands our tithes and deserves our offerings.

III. Wasn't the tithe one of the Old Testament laws given to Moses?

No, tithing is approximately 400 years older than the law. In Genesis 14:17-20, Abraham gave tithes to God through Melchizedek the High Priest.

Tithing was enforced by the law in Leviticus 27:30-34, approved by our Lord in Matthew 23:23, and was included in the teaching of the apostles in I Corinthians 16:2.

In the Apostles day, the Jew was bound to give 1/10 of his **income** (*not always money*) to God. In addition, there were free will offerings, trespass offerings, and costly journeys to the Temple. Biblical scholars have averaged the total tithe, offering and expense to be 1/5 to 1/3 of the Jew's income. **THINK ABOUT THAT!**

IV. What is the purpose of the tithe and offering?

Under the law (Old Testament), it was for the support of the priests. (Numbers 18:20-32). Under Grace (New Testament), it is for the support of the Church, her Ministers and the relief of the poor and needy.

V. Does that mean that if I do not tithe I am not exercising good Stewardship?

Tithing is a law of God concerning your earthly goods. Withholding any tangible item from its rightful owner is akin to thievery. **A thief is guilty of faulty Stewardship.**

VI. How can I make ends meet if I tithe when I don't get much money? (Social Security, Welfare, Pensions, etc.)

Tithing is an act of faith. If you take out God's portion first, out of whatever you get, He will see that all of your needs are met; and in addition, He will reward your faith. **"Prove me now herewith, saith the Lord of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of Heaven, and pour you out a Blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive"** (Malachi 3:10).

“NO ONE IS TOO POOR TO GIVE! CONSIDER THE WIDOW'S MITE.”