

Why I Tithe

Genesis 14:18-20 [First reference to tithing in the Bible.]

The word “*tithe*” means a tenth. To tithe means to honor God with 1/10th of your income—One penny out of every dime / One dollar out of every ten, etc.

I began to tithe shortly after I was baptized in 1968 when I heard my pastor (Dr. Henry Parrish) preach a sermon on tithing. [Thank God for preachers who aren’t afraid to preach about tithing! One of the best friends you have is someone who teaches you how to be rightly related to God and to money.]

I’ve never regretted tithing. The only thing I regret about tithing is I didn’t begin to tithe sooner!

➡ Why I tithe... First, let me tell you **why I don’t tithe**:

- I don’t tithe because I’m afraid God will clobber me if I don’t. I don’t tithe out of fear—I tithe out of love!
- I don’t tithe because God needs my money. God doesn’t need my money, but I certainly need His blessings!
- I don’t tithe because I’m trying to earn God’s favor. God loves me whether I tithe or don’t tithe!

I. It is SCRIPTURAL.

➡ Principle of tithing is seen in the garden of Eden.

- A. It **Commenced** with Abraham (Gen. 14:18-20). Before the law.
- B. It **Continued** with Jacob (Gen. 28:20-22). Before the law.
- C. It was **Charged** by Moses (Lev. 27:30-32).
- D. It was **Committed** by Nehemiah (Neh. 10:37-39; 13:10-12).
- E. It is **Challenged** by Malachi (Mal. 3:8-10). Put God to the test! God has blessed my commitment to honor Him one tenth of all my income from the day I started.
- F. It is **Commended** by Jesus (Matt. 23:23).

II. It is SENSIBLE. Tithing makes “CENTS!”

- A. **Logic** of tithing—Why would I do less under grace than an orthodox Jew was required under the law?
- B. **Longevity** of tithing—Tithing is a sound investment (Mt. 6:19-20). A good investment is an investment in something long lasting with guaranteed returns.
 - Even if God did not bless me in this life, I’d still tithe anyway! I’m laying up a treasure in heaven!

1. Investment in souls.
 2. Investment in eternity.
- C. **Loyalty** of tithing—A sign of allegiance (Mt. 6:24).
- D. **Likeness** of tithing—[There is an equality in tithing.] It is the same for everyone—Rich or poor. It gives every Christian an equal part in the work of God.
- Some believe tithing is only for the rich. No, tithing is for every Christian. I have never heard of a rich person who tithes who didn't begin tithing when they were not rich!

John P. Rockefeller, Sr. began to work as a small boy to help support his mother. His first wages amounted to \$1.50 per week. When he brought his wages home, his mother instructed him that 1/10 should be given to the Lord. He followed the wise advise of his mother and made that a regular practice. Rockefeller gives this testimony: "From that week until this day I have tithed every dollar God has entrusted to me. And I want to say, if I had not tithed the first dollar I made, I would not have tithed the first million dollars I made."

Consider **William Colgate**: At the age of 16 he left home with everything he owned tied in a bundle carried in his hand. The only trade he knew was soap and candle making. He met an old canal-boat captain who gave him this advice: "Someone will soon be the leading soap-maker in New York. It can be you as well as someone else. Give you heart to Christ. Pay the Lord all that belongs to Him. Make an honest soap, and I'm certain you'll be a prosperous man."

When he arrived in New York, Colgate joined the church and began to work. The first dollar he earned, he gave a tenth to God. He worked hard and soon became a partner and later sole owner of the business. He made honest soap and was honest with God. He instructed his bookkeeper to open an account with the Lord of 1/10 of all the company's profits. The business grew, so he gave 2/10, 3/10, 4/10, 5/10 and finally gave all his income to God.

In the early 1900's a young man began a small cheese business in Chicago. He failed. He was deeply in debt. A Christian friend told him, "You didn't take God into your business. You have not worked with Him."

Then this young man thought, "If God want to run the cheese business, He can do it, and I'll work for Him and with Him." He turned his business over to God and started tithing. The business began to grow and prospered to become the largest cheese company in the world. The name of that young man? J.L. Kraft, who became the president of the Kraft Cheese Company!

III. It is SPIRITUAL (2 Cor. 4:18).

- A. A spiritual *plan*—God's work (You are not spiritual when you withhold the Gospel from a world that needs it.)
- B. A spiritual *purpose*— To please God. (You are not spiritual when you use your money in a way that displeases God.)
- C. A spiritual *practice*— Contrary to the flesh. (You are not spiritual when you live after the flesh).

SUMMATION: More than 100 years ago Henry P. Crowell contracted tuberculosis and was told he could never achieve his ambition of becoming a preacher. After hearing a sermon by D. L. Moody, he prayed, "Lord, I can't be a preacher, but I can be a good businessman. If You will let me make money, I will use it in Your service."

A doctor advised Crowell to work outdoors. He followed this advice and at the end of seven years he regained his health. He then bought the little run-down Quaker Mill in Ravenna, Ohio. His business prospered, and, true to his promise, he faithfully tithed. Within 10 years Quaker Oats was a household name. For the next 40 years Crowell faithfully gave between 60 to 70 percent of his income to God!

Tithing is more than giving of money—It is an expression of our love for God and our concern for the lost.

Why I tithe? Simple: Because I love God!

Why tithe? **Why not?** Can you give me one good reason not to tithe?