

Resurrection Life of Jesus Church

WHAT ABOUT TITHING?

RLJ-1235

JOHN S. TORELL

APRIL 25, 2010

FINANCES – THE HARDEST THING TO SURRENDER TO GOD

If a Christian can surrender his money to the Lord, all other things will fall in line but money has a strong pull on people. It's not the money but *the love of money* which is the root of the problem. **1 Timothy 6:7-12**

God doesn't need our money but we need to trust the Lord with it. Man receives one heartbeat at a time and the same goes for each breath but neither of them can be saved for the future. Likewise, it is futile for man to try and save money by not tithing to the Lord. Look at the example of the rich man who thought he had it made. **Luke 12:15-21**

Jesus told us how to live. **Luke 12:22-31**

Tithing is not an option for the Christian but a command! **Malachi 3:6-12**

WHEN DID TITHING BEGIN?

There are many historical records which are not recorded in the Bible and at times we just get a glimpse of something that has taken place. Very little is known about the time prior to the Flood and the Books of Enoch give us information that is repeated in the Bible. We aren't told much about the development after the flood, but when God began his dealings with Abraham, we suddenly find out there are cities and kingdoms again on the earth. It had been 354 years since the Flood when Abraham was called by God to leave Haran and travel to Canaan's land.

True worship of God existed in different places and one of them was at the city/state of Salem which was later renamed Jerusalem. The king of Salem was Melchizedek and he was also the high priest representing the most high God. Abraham honored Melchizedek with his tithe. **Genesis 14:17-20; Hebrews 7:1-11**

We can conclude that God had a priest system set up at this time and that the people were to tithe to the priests.

When God brought the children of Israel into the Promised Land, only eleven of the twelve tribes could own land and do business. The tribe of Levi was to hold the office of priests and it was the duty of the eleven tribes to bring their tithes (10%) for the sustainment of the priests, strangers, fatherless and the widows. **Deuteronomy 14:22-29**



THE LEVITICAL PRIESTHOOD CHANGED

The Levitical priesthood with its synagogue system came to an end with the death and resurrection of Jesus and ushered in the New Covenant with Jesus as the high priest and ruler over the church. **Hebrews 7:11-24**

The New Testament makes it very clear that the church is the body of Jesus on this earth and it has replaced the Levitical system. **Ephesians 1:15-23**

The church of Jesus has different offices. **Ephesians 4:11-15**

God's ministers are to live off the Gospel just like the Levites and not be engaged in any other business than God's business. **1 Corinthians 9:1-14**

Jesus never abolished tithing; instead, He told the people they ought to tithe. **Matthew 23:23; Luke 11:42**

Jesus fulfilled the sacrificial part of the Law, but He never abolished the five books of Moses, so the rest of the Law is still in effect. **Matthew 5:17-18**

You won't lose your salvation if you teach other Christians that the Law of God is no longer in existence but you will become the lowest person in the Kingdom of God and stripped of His blessings. **verse 19**

Any Christian who is not tithing has excluded God from their finances and is on their own. God expects you to tithe on any income or increase you receive from salary, gifts and gains. This would include money received as a birthday gift or an item sold with profit; God expects a tithe on the increase.

Some Christians ask: *"Should I tithe on my salary before or after taxes are taken out?"* The Bible says we are to tithe on our increase. You do not receive your gross salary but what is left after taxes; thus, the income you take home is your increase.

"Should you tithe on a tax refund?" Yes, it is an increase.

Are you as a businessman required to tithe on the amount paid for a sale or a job done? No, your increase is only what is left over after you have paid all expenses and this is what you tithe upon.

Whatever you give above your tithe is an offering and God will receive whatever you want to give Him as an offering or a love gift.

God does not demand offerings; it is up to you if you want to give above the tithe.

A person living on welfare can only come out through tithing and walking with God.

Likewise a person in debt can only become debt free through tithing and walking with God. ***Are you willing to trust God with your money?***

A person who is unemployed should tithe on their unemployment payment since it is an increase. If you want a job, tithing on the unemployment check is the fastest way to get a job from God.

People on earth are planning for their retirement and investing in Social Security and pension funds. God's people should not only plan for retirement on earth but for an eternal life in heaven. Are you investing in your heavenly future by tithing and giving love offerings?

Remember, it's not so important how you begin your life after salvation, but how you finish it!

Have you made plans on how to finish your life or are you just drifting?

DO YOU HAVE AN EAR TO HEAR WITH?