

Longview Baptist Temple
Sunday School Lesson
January 25, 2009



=SAIL ON THE STEWARDSHIP=
What Are You Buying with God's Money?
I Timothy 6:10

INTRODUCTION: Many Christians are guilty of buying "things" and misusing God's money. If God were to take away everything you had purchased with His money, would it leave you naked, homeless, without a car, hungry or an empty bank account? Most of all I imagine it would leave you "embarrassed." Are you spending money that doesn't belong to you?

Let us see from the Bible whose money we are spending so freely! Tithing is taught in the Old and New Testament.

- I. **ISRAEL SUFFERED WHEN THEY FAILED TO PAY TITHES.** They were affected both spiritually and physically. Their crops were destroyed by devourers and they suffered a spiritual drought.
 - A. **God Put a Curse Upon Them.** The whole nation suffered for their sin of omission. There was hunger in Israel, for a great famine had spread over the land. They withheld their tithe to satisfy their greed. In executing judgment against them, God took much more than a tenth. A little blessed of God is worth more than bounties cursed by Him.
 - B. **The Levites Left Their Divine Service and Fled to the Fields.** Nehemiah 13:10, 11. The necessities of life cut off, the ministers were forced to the fields to earn bread for their wives and children. The house of the Lord was forsaken and there was an awful spiritual depravity among the people.

- II. **THEY WERE BLESSED WHEN THEY TITHED.** Cursed for failing and blessed for doing. They were under a curse and the Lord promised to lift it on condition that they would return unto Him in tithing.
 - A. **Promised to Open the Windows of Heaven Upon Them.** Paying tithes is the condition on which God has promised to open the windows of heaven upon man. Tithing is the only key to the windows, as far as promise is concerned.
 - B. **Infinite Blessings Promised.** Blessings so bountiful that the capacity of man cannot contain them. The overflow provides blessing for others. The true, consecrated, tithe-paying Christian will never suffer spiritual depravity.
 - C. **They Were Promised the Necessities of Life.** Israel depended on agriculture for their livelihood. For tithing, God promised them good crops by rebuking the devourer. He further promised to protect their vine against shedding her fruit before time.

- III. **THE PHARISEES PAID TITHES.** Luke 11:42. They were following the example and teaching of their fathers under the law. Christ denounced them for putting all their religion on the outside. He accused them of making clean the outside of the cup and platter, but inwardly they were full of ravening and wickedness.
 - A. **The Lord Did Not Condemn Them for Tithing.** It was not the intention of the Lord to denounce them for paying tithes. He sought to bring to their attention the fact that they were overlooking the matter of first importance – "judgment and the love of God."
 - B. **They Tithed Mint, Rue, and Herbs.** These were the smaller things. The Pharisees pretended so religiously that they tithed the very smallest things. It is questioned whether or not they tithed the bigger things.
 - C. **These Ought Ye to Have Done.** Tithing was one thing they were doing that they should do. They were practicing this much of religion in the right way. This part of their practice had the approval of Christ.
 - D. **The Text Brings Tithing into the New Testament.** Tithing, as many other religious practices, had its origin in the Old Testament. The rules of tithing are not plainly set forth in the New Testament as they are in the Old, but the statement of Christ is evidence of its approval in this dispensation.

- IV. **ABRAHAM'S EXPERIENCE OF TITHING BROUGHT INTO THE NEW TESTAMENT.** Hebrews 7:1-4

- A. Abraham Paid Tithes to Melchisedec. Much has been said about who Melchisedec really was. He is here described as king of Salem. Salem is commonly accepted as an old name for Jerusalem. Abraham, on his return from his expedition against Chedorlaomer, gave to Melchisedec tithes of all the booty taken from the enemy.
- B. Tithing Not Disapproved by New Testament Writers. If God had intended for tithing to stop with the fulfillment of the old covenant, such would have been mentioned somewhere. The fact that tithing is mentioned in the New Testament by more than one writer, without condemnation, and always favorably, is evidence of God's approval of its practice in the Church today.
- V. **TITHING BROUGHT INTO THE NEW TESTAMENT BY PAUL.** I Cor. 9:6-11.
 - A. Paul Writing on the Support of the Ministry. "Say I these things as a man? Or saith not the law the same also?" He is not bringing up something new. It was a practice under the law to pay those who ministered about holy things. It is likewise right to pay the gospel preacher.

CONCLUSION: God inaugurated the tithing system as a means of support for His ministers under the law. There is not mention of any change in His choice of a system. Therefore, we accept the tithing system of supporting the gospel as a plan ordained of God.