

5. **Will a man rob God?**

Read *Mal 3:6-12*. Israel is accused of robbing God in **tithes and offerings**. These tithes were to be brought into the storehouse where they were being spiritually cared for. The reason for the tithes is “that there may be meat in My house” for the support of God’s ministers who tread out the corn in the storehouse, and for the work of the Lord. If we are faithful in tithing what does God promise? *Mal 3:10* _____

OFFERINGS

If all you do is tithe, then you do not give God anything that is not already His. Tithing is giving Him what is rightfully His. Offerings are over and above the tithe! If we are faithful in giving freely and generously, what does Jesus guarantee?

Lk 6:38. _____

How are we to give, according to *Mat 10:8*? _____

What are three keys to giving? *2Cor 9:7* _____, _____, _____.

We need, therefore, to have our spiritual ears open to the Lord so that we might know how much He would have us give over and beyond our tithes. We must be open to the leading of the Holy Spirit to know where these offerings should be given.

GIVING TO OTHERS IN THE CHURCH

Notice that ministry to others in the Church and to the poor is a ministry to the Lord. *Mat 25:40; Pro 19:17*. “And do not neglect doing good and sharing, for with such sacrifices God is pleased.” *Heb 13:15; Gal 6:10; Jam 2:14-17*.

No 17

CHRISTIAN LIFE BIBLE COURSE

Study Seventeen: Giving

In this study we are going to look at what the Bible has to say about giving. What is Jesus reported to have said in *Ac 20:35*?

It is impossible to come into Christian maturity without having the scriptural truths to do with giving outworked in our lives.

GIVING AS AN ACT OF LOVE

How did God demonstrate this? *Jn 3:16* _____

The greatest gift ever given was the Lord Jesus Christ! This gift was the result of **LOVE**. If the love of God is truly shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Spirit, *Rom 5:5*, we, too, will demonstrate it in giving – to God, to one another, and the poor.

GIVING – AN ACT OF WORSHIP

In *Phil 4:18*, Paul calls the gift that the saints made towards the work of the Lord “an odour of a sweet smell, a sacrifice, acceptable, well pleasing to God”emphasizing the fact that part of our worship is giving towards the work of the Lord. Giving in the context of worship must begin with the giving of ourselves. How can we do this?

Rom 12:1 _____

GIVING AN ACT OF OBEDIENCE

“Every Christian is Jesus Christ’s slave. The reason for this is not far to seek. ‘You are not your own; you were bought with a price,’ *1Cor 6:19,20*. We have exchanged one slavery for another. We were the slaves of sin and self; but Jesus Christ has liberated us. He has bought us in the slave market. His precious blood was the price He paid to ransom us. So now we belong to Him. We have no rights of our own. We are His bondservants. As such we owe Him unquestioning obedience and ungrudging service, and we shall find His service to be perfect freedom.”

- John Stott

Because we are no longer our own, the Lord Jesus Christ owns our money too! Therefore He has the right to dictate what we are to do with it. **To give, in the Bible way, is an act of obedience to Him, and we should be bound to it even if there were no blessings attached to giving!**

GOD’S FINANCIAL PLAN – THE TITHE

1. Tithing before the law

Abraham gave tithes to Melchizedek, 430 years before God gave the Law to Moses and Israel at Mount Sinai.

Gen 14:18-20. Melchizedek is an Old Testament appearance of Jesus, *Heb 7:1-10*, and Abraham is the father of all who believe. *Rom 4:11,12; Gal 3:7,9*. The tithe is one tenth. In *Gen 28:32*, we see that Jacob also gave the tenth to God as a result of God’s presence and nearness.

2. Tithing under the Law

Read *Lev 27:30-33*. All the tithes of the land belong to the Lord. Under the Law there were actually three tithes:

a. **The first tithe.** This is the tithe spoken of in *Lev 27:30-33*. It was called “the Lord’s tithe” and went to the Levites, the ministers of the congregation, for their

livelihood. [The Levites were to tithe what they received to support the priesthood, *Num 18:25-28*.]

b. **The second tithe.** This was for the individual himself and his household to cover expenses at the national feasts. Read *Deut 12:5-14,17,18, Deut 14:22-26*. This was so that they might attend the feasts of the Lord, (not empty handed), to **rejoice and worship God** with these tithes. They ate of these tithes with great joy. What was one purpose of the second tithe? *Deut 14:23*

c. **The third tithe.** This was for the Levites, strangers, fatherless, orphans and widows. Read *Deut 14:28,29, Deut 26:12-14*. The third tithe was stored away, and at the end of every three years, it was brought forth and distributed amongst these four classes.

3. Jesus and Tithing

In *Mat 23:23* Jesus mentioned the Pharisees’ tithing of mint, anise and cummin and said this was right. It was expected of them but He reproved them for neglecting justice, mercy and faith. Concerning the payments of money to secular rulers and God, what did Jesus say? *Lk 20:25*

4. Paul and tithing

Read carefully *1Cor 9:1-14*. Paul teaches here that a minister should live by the Gospel. This church had not been supporting its ministers in a proper way, *v12,15*. Paul even had to rob other churches to support himself there, *2Cor 11:7,8*. He says that the ministry is to be supported in the scriptural way, which was tithing, *v6-11*. In *v13,14*, He applies the Old Testament teaching on the support of the Levites to the support of the New Testament ministry.