

Grace Chapel



FOUNDATION BIBLE COURSE - WEEK 11

Tithing

Wednesday 13th December 2006

- A tithe literally means one tenth.
- The first example of a tithe in the bible is when Abraham met Melchizedek the priest of the Most High (Genesis 14:18-20)
- Later on the LORD commanded that a tenth of the land should be given to Him (Leviticus 27:30)
- A tithe offering also had to be given to support the Levites
- By not paying the tithe the Israelites were robbing God (Malachi 3:8)

- When we give tithes and offerings although men receive them, God in heaven also receives them (Hebrews 7:8)
- However tithing is only an outward showing, an act of worship, of what should be taking place inside.
- The pharisees were accused of using it as a show of their holiness (Luke 11:42)
- Jesus shows that tithing is a "heart" issue not just a "rule"

Tithing is sometimes seen as a sacrifice

- Sacrifices are not what God requires if they are not from a heart that is willing to obey Him through love (Jeremiah 7:21-22)
- God does not want our sacrifices if they are not motivated by love (Hosea 6:5-7)

Tithing is sometimes seen as a way to get God's blessings

- God does tell His people that if they bring their tithes the windows of heaven will open (Malachi 3:10-11) It is the continual blessing of obedience.
- We are told not to tempt God (Deuteronomy 6:16) and in doing things in order for God to bless us, we actually limit the much greater work that He wants to do (Psalm 78:41) so giving the tithe is not something we do just because we want God to bless us.

The New testament is a continuation of the Old

- Jesus Christ didn't come to change the law but to fulfill it (Matthew 5:17) and now it is not what we do, but the motivation through which it is done. (1 Corinthians 13:3)
- The widow's mite was worth more than the rich people's money as she was willing to give her all to God.
- As the Israelites gave money to support the Levites we are told that it is good to give to those who teach us. (1 Timothy 5:17, 1 Corinthians 9:9-14)
- The New Testament speaks of giving but does not specify an amount.
- The people in the early church sold their possessions and gave it to the church so that the needs of the poor could be met. (Acts 2:45) It was a choice they made born out of love for each other.
- God doesn't need our money but he loves a cheerful giver. (2 Corinthians 9:7) We must give what we purposed in our hearts. From this passage it would almost seem that the amount that is purposed in our hearts may well be more than we would have if we gave as we purposed in our minds! God can sustain us regardless!

- Following Jesus means giving up all (Luke 18:22, Luke 14:26). This is not having an attachment to anything that will distract you from a relationship with God including money.
- God is expecting 100%.
- A tithe seems hardly enough!!!
