

**SCRIPTURE READINGS:** Genesis 14:17-24 – Malachi 3:6-12 – Matt. 23:23-33

**EXTRA READING:** Apostle's Creed & Canons III/IV, art 3 & rej. 3 (pg. 106)

**SINGING: 309:1-4 – 428:7-9 – 135:1-5 – 24:1-3**

Questions to ponder:

- Are we giving to God what is 'right or what is left?'
- If God gave you ten times as much as you give Him, could you live on it?

### God's Will Regarding Tithing

I. The Biblical Facts II. The Divine Reasons III. The Divine Promise

#### I. THE BIBLICAL FACTS ABOUT TITHING

A. Old Testament References

1. Gen. 14:17-24 ... *Abram paid tithes to Melchizedek*
2. Gen. 28:16-22 ... *Jacob vowed to give God 'the tenth'*
3. Lev. 27:30 ... *the tithe is 'holy to the LORD'*
4. Is. 57:17; Jer 6:13; Mal. 3:7 ... *preached against covetousness*

B. New Testament References

1. Matthew 23:23 ... *Jesus didn't condemn their tithing but hypocrisy*
2. 1 Cor. 16:1-2 ... *Hebraism reference to 'tithing practice'*

#### II. THE DIVINE REASONS FOR COMMANDING TITHING

A. I am the LORD thy God (Ex. 20:1-2)

B. For our good (Rom. 7:12)

C. To keep us mindful WHO is the possessor of heaven and earth (Ps. 24)

D. To make us aware for our need for Christ the Savior of sinners (Gal. 3:24)

E. To test our faith in God (1 Kings. 17:12-16; Mal. 3:10)

F. To provide the needed means for the church's ministry (Num. 18:20-24)

### **III. DIVINE PROMISE UPON TITHING**

- A. God promises He will never fail nor forsake those that put trust in Him
  - 1. Prov. 3:9-10 - 11:24-25: *I will honor those who honor Me!*
  - 2. Malachi 3:10-11 .. *I will make windows in heaven to provide all*
  - 3. Matthew 6:24-34 ... *take no thought for your life, what you shall eat*

#### **Concluding observations ...**

- A. "I never knew this as I wasn't taught this"
- B. "Am I to give all my tithes to church or free other charities?" (Gal. 6:10)
- C. "Do I need to give from my pre-tax income (gross?)" (1 Sam. 8:10-18)
- D. God loves a cheerful giver (Luke 12:41-44)

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#### **MORE THOUGHTS TO PONDER**

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If you don't give away anything God wants you to give,  
you don't own it – it owns you.

It is possible to give without loving but  
it is impossible to live without giving.

In this world it is not what we take up but what we give up that makes us  
rich. (Beecher)

From what curses and degradations should we be delivered if Christian  
people gave as the Scriptures direct! (Chadwick)

The tithe is not meant to be a ceiling at which we stop giving, but a floor  
from which we start.

I shall not value his prayers at all, be he never so earnest and frequent in  
them, who gives not alms according to his ability. (John Owen)

When we have given God all we have and are,  
we have simply given Him His own. (W. Plumer)