

# What is the Purpose for the people Tithing / Giving Financially?

- 1. To return to God what is actually his.
- 2. To supply for God's work on earth.
- 3. To test our hearts. (Do we Love him?)
- 4. To provide a way that opens an avenue of Blessing / Prosperity in every way (including Financial) for Believers.

#### 2nd Message:

- The 3 Main Ways of Giving. (Tithes, Offerings, and Alms)
- Where did Tithing Begin? (Not the Law)
  - > Abraham's Covenant.

#### The beginning of the Principle:

- "When we are Blessed Spiritually through God's ministers, we are to reciprocate by giving back Financially"
- For the Church it's the Tithe."
- For other minister's / settings it's Offerings. (I will show that yet.....)

#### 3rd Message:

- The 4 Big Covenant's
  - (Noah's, Abraham's, Moses, Jesus')
  - (Which are still in affect?)
- We showed from numerous scriptures that the law is no longer in affect.

Through Abraham's Covenant, and Jesus being in the order of Melchizedek, Abraham tithed to Melchizedek, and in the same way Melchizedek / Jesus are declared to be living, and we Tithe to him. (Jesus being in the order of Melchizedek)

# It all flows under the Principle:

"When we are Blessed Spiritually through God's ministers, we are to reciprocate by giving back Financially"

- For the Church it's the Tithe."
- For other minister's / settings it's Offerings.

#### Last thing we briefly touched:

- > Where does the church get it's funding? (The Tithes & Offerings)
- > I'm going to directly show this.....

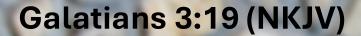
Let's look at other scriptures about Tithing in the New Testament.

- A. Tithing did come through the cross unchanged.
  - 1. Abraham's Covenant
  - 2. Scriptures in the N.T. that we'll look at today.

B. The N.T. approaches it from the perspective that it's expected. Nothing has changed. It came through the cross - unchanged.

## Romans 3:19-20 (NKJV)

19 Now we know that whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law, that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God. 20 Therefore by the deeds of the law no flesh will be justified in His sight, for by the law is the knowledge of sin.



19 What purpose then does the law serve? It was added because of transgressions, till the Seed should come to whom the promise was made; and it was appointed through angels by the hand of a mediator.

# Moses' Covenant Added (Law) Abraham's Covenant\_ > Jesus' Covenant\_ > Noah's Covenant. \_\_\_\_\_>

## Matthew 23:23 (NIV)

23 Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You give a tenth of your spices mint, dill and cummin. But you have neglected the more important matters of the law justice, mercy and faithfulness. You should have practiced the latter, without neglecting the former. (Luke 11:42)

# 1 Corinthians 9:1-18 (NKJV)

1 Am I not an apostle? Am I not free? Have I not seen Jesus Christ our Lord? Are you not my work in the Lord? 2 If I am not an apostle to others, yet doubtless I am to you. For you are the seal of my apostleship in the Lord. 3 My defense to those who examine me is this: 4 Do we have no right to eat and drink? 5 Do we have no right to take along a believing wife, as do also the other apostles, the brothers of the Lord, and Cephas?

6 Or is it only Barnabas and I who have no right to refrain from working? 7 Who ever goes to war at his own expense? Who plants a vineyard and does not eat of its fruit? Or who tends a flock and does not drink of the milk of the flock? 8 Do I say these things as a mere man? Or does not the law say the same also? 9 For it is written in the law of Moses, You shall not muzzle an ox while it treads out the grain. Is it oxen God is concerned about?

10 Or does He say it altogether for our sakes? For our sakes, no doubt, this is written, that he who plows should plow in hope, and he who threshes in hope should be partaker of his hope. 11 If we have sown spiritual things for you, is it a great thing if we reap your material things? 12 If others are partakers of this right over you, are we not even more? Nevertheless we have not used this right, but endure all things lest we hinder the gospel of Christ.

- v. 11 is a principle founded in Abraham & Melchizedek.....
- v. 12 receiving financial support for sowing spiritual things is a right of the person doing the sowing / blessing.

13 Do you not know that those who minister the holy things eat of the things of the temple, and those who serve at the altar partake of the offerings of the altar? 14 Even so the Lord has commanded that those who preach the gospel should live from the gospel.

v. 13 - He's referring to the guidelines of the law. (O.T.)

How did the temple and altar of the O.T. get the things that were to be given to the priests? The tithe, and offerings.

Paul is saying: why isn't this being done.
This is how God has set it up to provide for the ministers. He is showing the tithe is still relevant and in affect in the N.T.

#### **History Lesson:**

Levi's lineage (The Levites)

**Aaron's lineage (The Priests)** 

Moses and Aaron (his older brother) were Levites.

(From the Tribe of Levi - one of Jacob's 12 sons)

#### **Numbers 18:8-32 (NIV)**

8 Then the LORD said to Aaron, I myself have put you in charge of the offerings presented to me; all the holy offerings the Israelites give me I give to you and your sons as your portion and regular share. 9 You are to have the part of the most holy offerings that is kept from the fire. From all the gifts they bring me as most holy offerings, whether grain or sin or guilt offerings, that part belongs to you and your sons. 10 Eat it as something most holy; every male shall eat it. You must regard it as holy.

11 This also is yours: whatever is set aside from the gifts of all the wave offerings of the Israelites. I give this to you and your sons and daughters as your regular share. Everyone in your household who is ceremonially clean may eat it. 12 I give you all the finest olive oil and all the finest new wine and grain they give the LORD as the firstfruits of their harvest. 13 All the land's firstfruits that they bring to the LORD will be yours. Everyone in your household who is ceremonially clean may eat it.

14 Everything in Israel that is devoted to the LORD is yours. 15 The first offspring of every womb, both man and animal, that is offered to the LORD is yours. But you must redeem every firstborn son and every firstborn male of unclean animals. 16 When they are a month old, you must redeem them at the redemption price set at five shekels of silver, according to the sanctuary shekel, which weighs twenty gerahs.

17 But you must not redeem the firstborn of an ox, a sheep or a goat; they are holy. Sprinkle their blood on the altar and burn their fat as an offering made by fire, an aroma pleasing to the LORD. 18 Their meat is to be yours, just as the breast of the wave offering and the right thigh are yours.

19 Whatever is set aside from the holy offerings the Israelites present to the LORD I give to you and your sons and daughters as your regular share. It is an everlasting covenant of salt before the LORD for both you and your offspring.

20 The LORD said to Aaron, You will have no inheritance in their land, nor will you have any share among them; I am your share and your inheritance among the Israelites. 21 I give to the Levites all the tithes in Israel as their inheritance in return for the work they do while serving at the Tent of Meeting. 22 From now on the Israelites must not go near the Tent of Meeting, or they will bear the consequences of their sin and will die.

23 It is the Levites who are to do the work at the Tent of Meeting and bear the responsibility for offenses against it. This is a lasting ordinance for the generations to come. They will receive no inheritance among the Israelites. 24 Instead, I give to the Levites as their inheritance the tithes that the Israelites present as an offering to the LORD. That is why I said concerning them: They will have no inheritance among the Israelites.

25 The LORD said to Moses, 26 Speak to the Levites and say to them: When you receive from the Israelites the tithe I give you as your inheritance, you must present a tenth of that tithe as the LORD's offering. 27 Your offering will be reckoned to you as grain from the threshing floor or juice from the winepress.

28 In this way you also will present an offering to the LORD from all the tithes you receive from the Israelites. From these tithes you must give the LORD's portion to Aaron the priest. 29 You must present as the LORD's portion the best and holiest part of everything given to you.'

30 Say to the Levites: When you present the best part, it will be reckoned to you as the product of the threshing floor or the winepress. 31 You and your households may eat the rest of it anywhere, for it is your wages for your work at the Tent of Meeting. 32 By presenting the best part of it you will not be guilty in this matter; then you will not defile the holy offerings of the Israelites, and you will not die.

(cf. - Deuteronomy 18:1-5)

13 Do you not know that those who minister the holy things eat of the things of the temple, and those who serve at the altar partake of the offerings of the altar? 14 Even so the Lord has commanded that those who preach the gospel should live from the gospel.

 Paul is directly stating here that ministers in the N.T. are to make their living from the Tithes and Offerings just like the Priests and Levites did in the O.T.



a. Those don't apply to the church

# b. The part that does apply is:

- how the ministers ("those who minister the holy things; those who serve at the altar") are given their living,
- and the church (the Temple) is funded.

> v. 13 isn't referring to an individual - it's referring to the place the minister works. They "eat of the things of the temple".

Scriptures that refer to the corporate body as the temple.

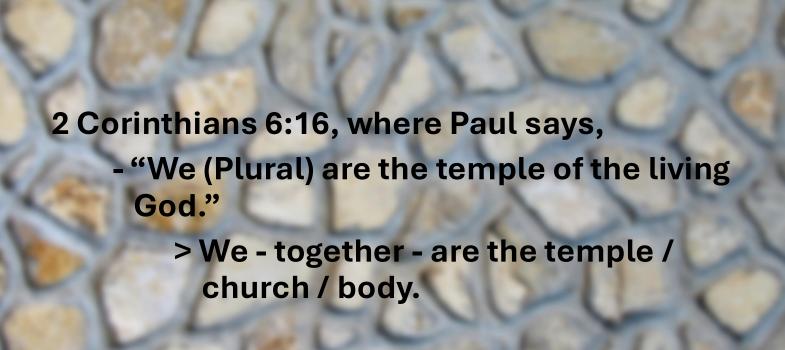
1 Corinthians 3:16-17: Paul writes, "Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you? If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy him. For God's temple is holy, and you are that temple."

 Here, "you" is plural in the Greek, referring to the church community as a collective temple. Ephesians 2:19-22: Paul describes believers as "built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord."

- This portrays the church as a spiritual temple, with Christ as its foundation.

1 Peter 2:4-5: Peter says, "As you come to him, a living stone rejected by men but in God's sight chosen and precious, you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood."

 The church is depicted as a spiritual house, or temple, composed of believers as "living stones."



Paul is directly stating here that ministers in the N.T. are to make their living from the Tithes and Offerings just like the Priests and Levites did in the O.T. - - and the Temple / church is funded through them.

#### The Point is:

Paul and Jesus drew on the description of the Law to tell us that Tithing still exists, and it is used to fund the ministers living and the church (Kingdom work)

1 Corinthians 9:13-14 (KJV)

13 Do ye not know that they which minister about holy things live of the things of the temple? and they which wait at the altar are partakers with the altar? 14 Even so hath the Lord ordained that they which preach the gospel should live of the gospel.

# Matthew 10:7-10 (NKJV)

7 And as you go, preach, saying, The kingdom of heaven is at hand. 8 Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out demons. Freely you have received, freely give. 9 Provide neither gold nor silver nor copper in your money belts, 10 nor bag for your journey, nor two tunics, nor sandals, nor staffs; for a worker is worthy of his food.

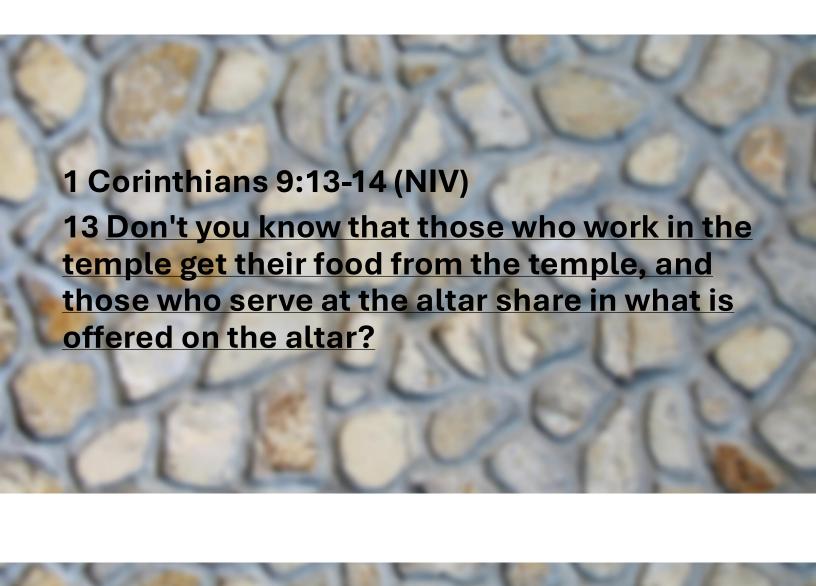
a. v. 7-8 - there is the N.T. ministry

b. v. 8 - Freely you have received, freely give has nothing to do with a minister making his living from the Tithes and Offerings of the People. It is talking about: don't charge someone for preaching to them, healing them, raising the dead, or casting out demons.

- This ability was freely given, so give what it can do FREELY.
- Don't charge the people they are obligated by Covenant to give in reciprocation for.....

(Remember: The Principle > Abraham)

- c. v. 9 There is how they are to make their living.
  - They are not to provide for themselves.
  - That's what Paul is quoting in v. 14:



14 In the same way, the Lord has commanded that those who preach the gospel should receive their living from the gospel.

Just in case you missed it: Where is the Tithe Given?

- a. The Church.
- b. Giving to someone in need is not Tithing, it's Alms.

Giving to a speaker you went and saw is not Tithing, it's Offerings.

#### Those who Work / Serve at the Altar

- This is talking about the place you go to get your spiritual work done; the place you are plugged into / connected with / and do your portion of your work / job at.
- This is talking about the Church / Temple.

- c. Special Speakers are never referred to as:
- The Body / Church / Temple in scripture.
- It's the corporate Body that is the Church.

#### Ephesians 4:15-16 (NKJV)

15 but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head, Christ 16from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.

The Head: referring to the Body (Church is called the body of Christ)

a. Is this the Universal Church, or the local church?

v. 16 - It's the group that is held together by each part (person) making a personal supply. According to the effective working by which every part does it's share.

b. Universal or Local body?

- v. 16 It's the body that grows because of your work
  - It's the body that grows in Love because of your work.
  - a. Universal or Local body?
  - b. He's definitely using language that fits more to the Local Body than the Universal Body.

# 5. Application:

- a. We are to give our Tithe to the Local church where we are plugged in Not some distant church or random speaker / minister.
- b. We can give offerings to them, but should not give the Tithe.

15 But I have used none of these things, nor have I written these things that it should be done so to me; for it would be better for me to die than that anyone should make my boasting void. 16 For if I preach the gospel, I have nothing to boast of, for necessity is laid upon me; yes, woe is me if I do not preach the gospel! 17 For if I do this willingly, I have a reward; but if against my will, I have been entrusted with a stewardship.

18 What is my reward then? That when I preach the gospel, I may present the gospel of Christ without charge, that I may not abuse my authority in the gospel.

#### 2 Corinthians 11:7-8 (AMP)

7 But did I perhaps make a mistake and do you a wrong in debasing and cheapening myself so that you might be exalted and enriched in dignity and honor and happiness by preaching God's Gospel without expense to you? 8 Other churches I have robbed by accepting [more than their share of] support for my ministry [from them in order] to serve you.

# 2 Corinthians 12:13 (AMP)

13 For in what respect were you put to a disadvantage in comparison with the rest of the churches, unless [it was for the fact] that I myself did not burden you [with my financial support]? Pardon me [for doing you] this injustice! (KJV, NKJV, NIV: "Forgive me this wrong")

How would the people be put at a "disadvantage", and an "injustice" done to them by not receiving their Tithes and Offerings?

- 1. He was keeping them from.....
  Seedtime & Harvest.
- 2. They were being limited in the Blessing of the Covenant > because of the lack of exchange.

- 3. They were being limited in EVERY AREA of their lives, because he did this.
- 4. Paul realized this by the time he wrote 2 Corinthians, so he apologized for sinning against them.

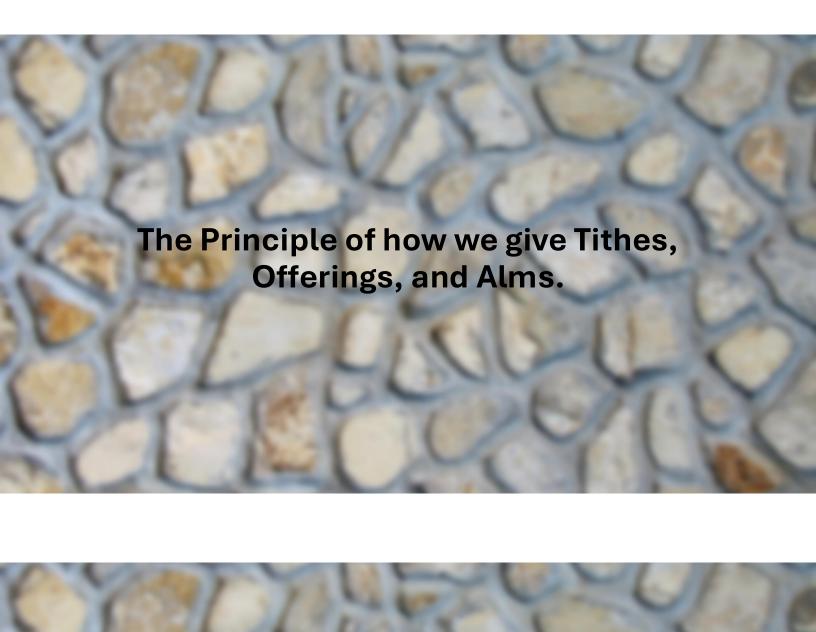
Another Place Paul refers to Tithing on a weekly basis to the local church.

1 Corinthians 16:1-2 (NIV)

1 Now about the collection for God's people: Do what I told the Galatian churches to do. 2 On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with his income, (KJV: "as God has prospered him") saving it up, so that when I come no collections will have to be made.

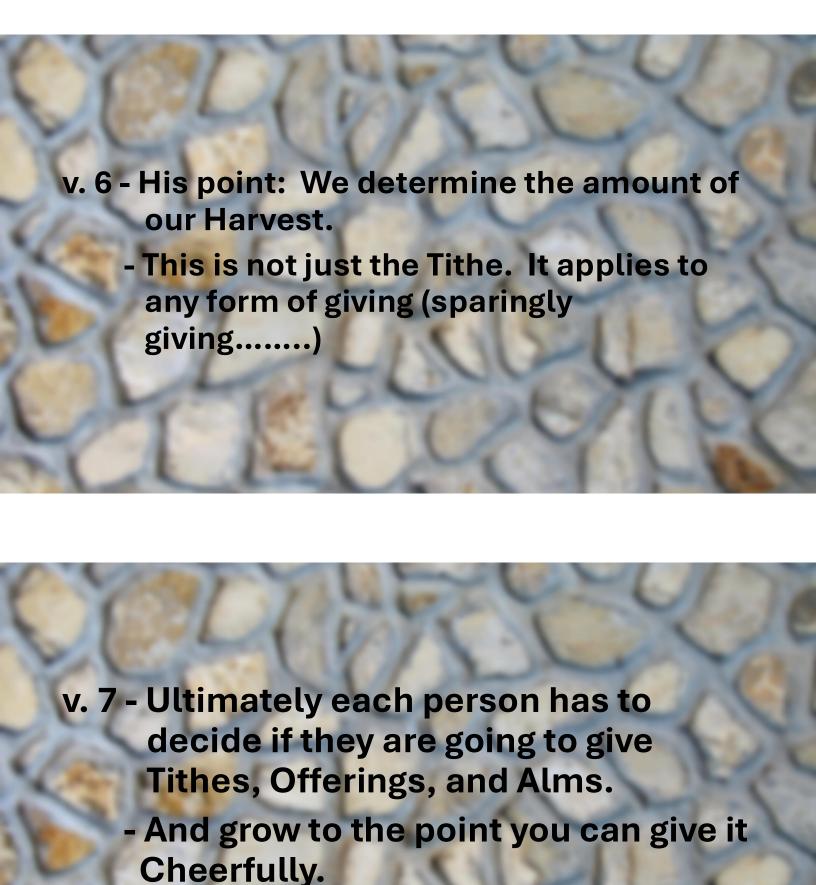
1 Corinthians 16:2 (AMP)

2 On the first [day] of each week, let each one of you [personally] put aside something and save it up as he has prospered [in proportion to what he is given],.....



2 Corinthians 9:6-11 (NIV)

6 Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. 7Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.



8 And (1) God is able to make all grace abound to you, (2) so that in all things (3) at all times, (4) having all that you need, (5) you will abound in every good work. 9 As it is written: He has scattered abroad his gifts to the poor; his righteousness endures forever.

Here are the N.T. earthly rewards for Tithing, Offerings, Alms.

- a. This is called: "Prosperity"
- b. This is the Prosperity Gospel (Good News).

#### **HOWEVER:**

If giving opens it up for us to receive all 5 listed above,

Then a lack of giving can allow the 5 things listed above to remain closed to us.

The O.T. Law described it as Blessings & Curses.

10 Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness. 11 You will be made rich in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God.