

NEWCOMERS CLASS #2

PART 1 – THE TITHE BELONGS TO GOD – BIBLICAL PRINCIPLES OF GIVING

PART 2 – THE CHURCH CONSISTS OF ALL THOSE WHO HAVE RECEIVED JESUS CHRIST AS THEIR PERSONAL SAVIOR

I. THE TITHE BELONGS TO GOD – BIBLICAL PRINCIPLES OF GIVING

A. TITHING IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

1. The use of the tithe

- a. God's plan to finance the kingdom of God.

1. Tithes
2. Offerings
3. Everything we have belongs to God
4. The attitude of giving

2. Tithing before the Law of Moses

- a. Abraham gives a tithe to Melchizedek (approx. 2,000 B.C.) (Genesis 14:18) In return Melchizedek gives Abraham a form of communion and blesses him.
- b. Jacob promises to give God one-tenth (a tithe) of all he has. Genesis 28:22

3. Requirements of the Law of Moses

- a. The Law is the school master. It is the minimum standard of action. The book of Romans says that the law is pure, holy, and just. Peter says it is good if used lawfully.
- b. The Law requires offerings along with the giving of tithes. Leviticus 1-5
 1. The burnt offering
 2. The meal/meat offering
 3. The peace offering
 4. The sin offering
 5. The trespass offering
- c. The sin offering and trespass offering were mandatory under the law. The others were discretionary. All these offerings have New Testament implications.

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4. Tithing under the Law of Moses (approximately 1400 B.C.) Leviticus 27:30

- a. You gave **10%** of everything in the field.
- b. The punishment for not tithing was 10% + 1/5 part (20%) added).
- c. If you changed the base number because some of the crops were unusable or some of the animals were not healthy you had to give the priest the original tithe plus whatever you had determined unusable.

Example: If you had 100 cows in the field your tithe is 10 cows. If 20 of them were sick so you said you only had 80 cows and paid a tithe of 8 instead of 10 you had to give the priests the original tithe of 10 cows plus an additional 20.

5. Where does the tithe go? Numbers 18:24

- a. The Levites got a portion of the heave offering (tithe).
- b. The Levites then gave a tithe of the tithe that they received to the priests.
- c. Rhema Christian Center gives money (the tithe of the tithe) to ministries, **locally, nationally, and internationally.**

6. Malachi 3:8 – Israel was restored after the Babylonian captivity but they were slothful in all areas of the Law.

- a. Judgment came upon the people because they had neglected the tithe. There was a curse upon the land and the fruit was cast in the ground before its time.

The **storehouse** – the place where the people of God gather

- b. The benefits of tithing
 1. There is a blessing upon the **tither**
 2. God will rebuke the devour
 3. Delightful land

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B. TITHING IN THE NEW TESTAMENT

1. Luke 11:42 deals with the attitude for giving.

- a. The Pharisees were challenged because they gave the tithe solely to make a name for themselves. They were looking over the judgments and the love of God.
- b. Luke 18:30 – the benefits of giving up everything for the kingdom of God if done with the right motives.

2. Principles of giving, sowing and reaping

- a. Galatians 6:7-10 – everything will reproduce after its own kind (Genesis principle). You will reap whatever you sow.
- b. Example: If you sow corn, don't expect strawberries. To reap money you must sow money.
- c. Luke 6:38 – whatever you give will come back to you.
- d. Matthew 6:19-20 – you can tell where your heart is by where your money goes. Whatever you invest in, that's where your heart is. Make eternal investments.

3. The attitude of the heart in giving/manner of giving

- a. II Corinthians 8:1-2, 12 – have a mind willing to give. It is accepted and blessed according to what you have in your heart not what you actually able to give.
- b. II Corinthians 9:7 – give according to what's in your heart to give. Don't give grudgingly or by arm twisting. The benefit – God will make all grace abound to you.

4. Hebrews 7 – the Melchizedek principle revisited – last mention of the word tithe in the Bible. Jesus is the High Priest of our tithes.

5. Testimonies of adventures of giving and specifics of giving at Rhema Christian Center

- a. The blessings of the Lord as Rhema Christian Center began with eight people. The principles of giving used by Rhema Christian Center
- b. Most specific explanations of giving at Rhema, i.e. use of envelopes, etc.

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II. THE CHURCH CONSISTS OF ALL THOSE WHO HAVE RECEIVED JESUS CHRIST AS THEIR PERSONAL SAVIOR

A. INTRODUCTION – REASONS FOR JOINING A CHURCH

1. Some people join the church because they like some aspect of the ministry.
2. Some people join the church through a voting process.
3. Some people join the church because it's a family tradition.
4. All of these reasons are incompatible with God's order for joining the church/the Body of Christ.

B. THE CHURCH IS PART OF THE KINGDOM OF GOD – JOHN 3:3

1. Jesus told Nicodemus that he had to be **born again** to see the Kingdom of God – John 3.
2. Matthew 16:13-19 – Peter announces that Jesus is the son of God and that He is the foundation for the church. Jesus is responsible for building the church (God's only legal, legitimate governmental agency in the earth).
3. The church is called several things as we look through the book of Ephesians
 - a. A **body** – a living organism with reproductive ability (Ephesians 1)
 - b. His **workmanship** – God works out our salvation
 - c. A household of faith – a **family** – God is our Father and the head of the family
 - d. An Holy Temple – this signifies our ability to have intimacy with God, i.e. **praise** and **worship**
 - e. A bride – We can have a personal, intimate **relationship** with God (Ephesians 5)
 - f. A **mighty army** – the church is a force to be reckoned within the earth (Ephesians 6)
4. The church is part of the “Kingdom **of heaven**” – tells us where the kingdom is from and the “Kingdom of **God**” – tells us who owns the kingdom.

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C. CONDITIONS FOR ENTRY INTO THE CHURCH/THE KINGDOM OF GOD

1. You must have **faith** in the Lord Jesus Christ (John 3:16) – agree to put your life in His hands. You cannot just join a church or be voted into a church.
2. Acknowledge that Jesus is the **only way** to enter the Kingdom of God – John 14:6.
3. Access to the Kingdom is by **faith** and through the **grace** of God – Ephesians 2:8
4. We must **activate** our faith – Romans 10:9-10
5. Once we believe, the **Holy Spirit** baptizes us into the Body of Christ – it is by no human act.
6. The Church in the Book of Acts grew based on people being **saved** – they used no other criteria. Acts 2:43-47