

# Supporting The Church

*This tract has been created to introduce those who are searching for truth set forth in God's word. This tract is not based on the traditions of men and pagan religions.*

As children of God, we must look for truth in what the scriptures teach us on supporting the Church. We believe that most churches tend to confuse their members on this issue. Those churches that teach tithing do not do it in the spirit of the New Testament teachings. Paying any amount of tithe must be from the heart and should not be based on the Levitical law, or the precept of Jacob's vow. Churches like to start us out with Abram, so let us look to Genesis.

Genesis 14:17 - 20

**Verse 17** And the king of Sodom went out to meet him after his return from the slaughter of Chedorlaomer, and of the kings that *were* with him, at the valley of Shaveh, which *is* the king's dale.

**Verse 18** And Melchizedek king of Salem brought forth bread and wine: and he *was* the priest of the most high God.

**Verse 19** And he blessed him, and said, Blessed *be* Abram of the most high God, possessor of heaven and earth:

**Verse 20** And blessed be the most high God, which hath delivered thine enemies into thy hand. And he gave him tithes of all.

Abram was under no oath to pay a tithe, in fact until now we have no record of a tithe. Let us consider Genesis, this is a futuristic example for Jesus and the support of His Church. Abram returns from the battle with his men tired and hungry. The High Priest, which is the forerunner of Jesus, provided Abram and his men with food and drink. We see that one as great as Abram recognized the authority of this King of Salem that he paid him homage in giving him a tithe.

Hebrews 7:2, 15

**Verse 2** To whom also Abraham gave a tenth part of all; first being by interpretation King of righteousness, and after that also King of Salem, which is, King of peace;

**Verse 15** And it is yet far more evident: for that after the similitude of Melchisedec there ariseth another priest,

We see even the New Testament acknowledges that Jesus is after the order of Melchisedec.

Hebrews 5:6 - 10

**Verse 6** As he saith also in another *place*, Thou *art* a priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec.

**Verse 7** Who in the days of his flesh, when he had offered up prayers and supplications with strong crying and tears unto him that was able to save him from death, and was heard in that he feared;

**Verse 8** Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered;

**Verse 9** And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him;

**Verse 10** Called of God an high priest after the order of Melchisedec.

Abram pays respect to this High Priest of the living God by paying a tithe of all. Abram paid nothing from an oath, but out of love as a servant of the living God. How much more love and respect should we be showing to the chosen and last High Priest of God, Jesus the Christ. Tithe is a principal set down by the great patriarch Abraham. It is something we should be paying to show our faith in God that he will provide for us. The paying of tithe should be done from the heart and not because of obligation or law, as you would not be giving in the right spirit then.

Genesis 28:20 - 22

**Verse 20** And Jacob vowed a vow, saying, If God will be with me, and will keep me in this way that I go, and will give me bread to eat, and raiment to put on,

**Verse 21** So that I come again to my father's house in peace; then shall the LORD be my God:

**Verse 22** And this stone, which I have set *for* a pillar, shall be God's house: and of all that thou shalt give me I will surely give the tenth unto thee.

We can see here that Jacob's vow has nothing to do with faith; but that Jacob makes a vow with God saying if He will take him home and provide for him that he will give a tenth back to God. We see all throughout Exodus that a tenth is a reoccurring number given, as it is a reasonable amount to give.

Numbers 18:20, 21, 24, 26

**Verse 20** And the LORD spake unto Aaron, Thou shalt have no inheritance in their land, neither shalt thou have any part among them: I *am* thy part and thine inheritance among the children of Israel.

**Verse 21** And, behold, I have given the children of Levi all the tenth in Israel for an inheritance, for their

service which they serve, *even* the service of the tabernacle of the congregation.

**Verse 24** But the tithes of the children of Israel, which they offer *as* an heave offering unto the LORD, I have given to the Levites to inherit: therefore I have said unto them, Among the children of Israel they shall have no inheritance.

**Verse 26** Thus speak unto the Levites, and say unto them, When ye take of the children of Israel the tithes which I have given you from them for your inheritance, then ye shall offer up an heave offering of it for the LORD, *even* a tenth part of the tithe.

We see that the tribe of Levi, the priestly tribe, was to receive no land inheritance. They were to receive a tenth from all of Israel, which of that they were to offer a tenth. The New Testament church is neither under Jacob's vow nor any obligation to the Levitical Priesthood.

Abram exemplified that we should use the principle of ten percent of our income for tithe. It must be as Abram gave, for love of God and his church not for the law. As James says, it is our works that prove our faith.

James 2:17, 18

**Verse 17** Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone.

**Verse 18** Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works.

If we believe that God is our provider and will take care of us, then we can give to God the ten percent of our income knowing he will replenish all things we have need of.

Galatians 3:28, 29

**Verse 28** There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus.

**Verse 29** And if ye *be* Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.

Jesus is our living example and even in his chastisement of Israel he never discounted giving of tithe as wrong just that there were weightier matters.

Matthew 23:23

**Verse 23** Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye pay tithe of mint and anise and cummin, and have omitted the weightier *matters* of the law, judgment, mercy, and faith: these ought ye to have done, and not to leave the other undone.

We see here that the issue is not about giving tithe but about them giving tithe and not worrying about the weightier matters. Paying tithe does not omit having to keep God's word or laws, it is to show your appreciation for all that he has done for us and all he is still doing for us.

Luke 6:38

**Verse 38** Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again.

II Corinthians 9:7, 8

**Verse 7** Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, *so let him give*; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver.

**Verse 8** And God *is* able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all *things*, may abound to every good work:

God loves a cheerful giver, those who pay tithe to the church out of concern for God and the church are paying from the heart. We must have faith that God will provide for us as long as we obey his word and spread the gospel.

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