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The Tithe

Some of you have asked me about the tithe. Is it found in the New Testament? You have also enquired as to how we finance all the free tapes that we send out to you. Since we never ask for money nor do we solicit you with a barrage of requests, I would like to answer these questions in this letter.

Yes the tithe is in the New Testament. Jesus said in Matthew 5:17, 18, "I am not come to destroy the law, or the prophets but to fulfill the law. Till heaven and earth pass (*the end of time*) one jot (*yod - the smallest letter of the Hebrew alphabet*) or one tittle (*the smallest marks on the Hebrew letters*) shall in no wise pass from the law till all be fulfilled," the tithe was certainly a part of the law. It was a tenth of the earnings that was taken to the priests of Israel on Friday before the beginning of the Sabbath at 6:00 Friday evening. Jesus is saying that the law will

be here till the end of time. For those of you who have heard the different series on the Old Testament shadow and the New Testament very image, this will be familiar. Everything in the Old Testament was literal and ritual. The New Testament is spiritual. In the Old Testament there was Solomon's Temple, now in the New Testament, Paul says "Know ye not that your body is the Temple of God." Here is a list of some New Testament spiritual that corresponds to Old Testament shadows (ritual)

1. Law written on tables of stone - Deut. 9:10
Law written on Fleasy tables of the heart - II Cor. 3:3

2. Blood sprinkled on Ark of Covenant - Lev. 16:14
Our hearts (spiritual ark) sprinkled - Heb. 10:22, I Pet. 1:2

3. The Passover Lamb - Ex. 12:3-11
Jesus Our Passover

Lamb -
I Cor. 5:7, John 1:29

There are many more examples.

When Jesus was nailed to the cross, only the rituals of the law were blotted out. The law continued spiritually.

Col. 2:14
Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances (*rules, regulations or rituals*) - took it out of the way nailing it to his cross (*the method of canceling a contract*)

The only thing that was nailed to the cross was the rituals or the letter of the law. The spirit of the law continued. There was no ritual connected with the tithe. The tithe could not possibly be annihilated because it was the method of feeding the priesthood, building and repairing the temple, buying all the supplies and expenses for the temple and priesthood as well as other such expenses as repairing

Num. 18:20, 21 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. And behold I have given the children of Levi (*the priesthood - we are priests and kings, a royal priesthood - Rev. 1:6, I Pet. 2:9*) all the tenth in Israel for an inheritance for their service which they serve even the service of the tabernacle of the congregation.

This was their wage. The preacher who works full time in ministry (truth) has no inheritance in the occupations of the congregation. The tithe takes care of him and all church and ministry expenses. Paul's words of I Cor. 9:1-14 without a doubt speak of the tithe of Numbers 18 and that it should be given to the ministers of the gospel who minister around the altar. The very image of the Old Testament altar where sacrifices were offered is the daily cross. We give our bodies a living

sacrifice daily (Luke 9:23 - Rom. 12:1). We are lambs to the slaughter every day (Rom. 8:36). Paul also speaks concerning the monetary cost of preaching, "Who goeth a warfare any time at his own charges." He is saying that a soldier doesn't go to war and liberate someone at his own expense. He is paid by the people.

Again in I Cor. 9:14 Even so hath the Lord ordained that they which preach the gospel should live of the gospel.

Paul is saying that the preacher who preaches truth should never have to go begging. He should be taken care of by his people (the flock).

Then Paul says in verse 18, "I make the gospel of Christ without charge." This is the goal of Grace & Truth Ministries and my personal goal as well. I desire to give away as many tapes as possible, free of charge, before I die. This message we preach is the only truth. Preachers in the world are apostate. I desire to

get these doctrines of Christmas being pagan, predestination, being hated and persecuted by the world for righteousness' sake, to all the world.

Paul refers to the tithe in II Cor. 16:2 as a certain percentage of the income:

Upon the first day of the week let everyone of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come.

The phrase "as God hath prospered" implies that each person is to give a percentage of their income. Every person doesn't give the same amount but "as God has prospered," a percentage. The percentage that man is to give from beginning to end of the Bible is ten percent. This verse appears to be an allusion to the tithe.

The last thing a man commits to God is his pocketbook. When a man gives to support the preaching of the truth, then he really believes the message needs to get out to the world. One fellow said that when it

comfort one another in the word as we do our daily tasks -- running errands for the ministry, picking up tapes at the supplier, going to Office Depot, etc. Everywhere we go, daily, whether in restaurants, grocery stores, service station, the doctor, etc. we talk truth and give away tapes. I have given away hundreds of tapes to waitresses and clerks in the businesses and offices that I frequent. It's unusual for me to go somewhere and not give away tapes. When Mary goes by herself she is always talking truth to people. If she didn't have any tapes the day she talked to someone she reminds me to stop or go by and take this person a tape.

I get weary sometimes and even groan and complain about the world and our trials. Mary will say something along this line, "I think I heard a preacher say --" and then she proceeds to preach one of my messages back to me. That's all it takes and I get back on the track. There is nothing in the world more important than the defined truth of God.

The law is still in effect.

Romans 3:31

Do we then make void the law through faith? God forbid: yea, we establish the law.

Romans 13:10

Love worketh no ill to his neighbor: therefore love (*agape* - walking in God's commandments) is the fulfilling of the law.

Gal. 5:14

For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this; Thou shalt love (*agape*) thy neighbor as thyself.

The Greek word Agape when translated into the word love means to walk in the commandment or law of another. If Love or Agape is here, the law is definitely here. If the law is here then the tithe is still here. Let me remind you that the only part of the law that was blotted out was the ritual or letter of the law - the Spirit of the law is alive and well. There were no rituals involved in the tithe and it was not a spiritual concept other than that the Spirit must convict a man to tithe. The tithe was the means of paying all the

expenses of the temple and priesthood.

Tithes were paid to Melchizedek in Gen. 14:18. Jesus is a priest forever after the order of Melchisedec (the New Testament rendering to the same) - Heb. 5:6, 10. God does not change. Melchisedec, Jesus Christ still receives tithes through the church.

When God convicts our hearts to give tithes and offerings, to whom should we give it? I've said it many times: you pay where you eat. You do not go to McDonalds and eat then after you are through you say, "I'll go next door and pay at Arby's."

Paul tells us where our tithes belong.

Gal. 6:6

Let him that is taught in the word communicate unto him that teacheth in all good things.

Communicate is the Greek word *koinoneo* meaning to share with others or to distribute.

Paul says that you only communicate and give to the preacher who

The tithe, I have found, is one of the most difficult scriptural commands for the sheep to understand mainly because they don't want to let go of their money and they try to justify themselves in not supporting God's truth.

Tithe is not money you give to Jim Brown so he can live high and buy fancy homes, luxury cars and expensive jewelry. As I have said my home, cars, and personal belongings are paid for. Those of you that know me know that I run around town in the summer in a t-shirt, jeans and tennis shoes. I have my t-shirts printed with sayings on them so that I can preach to people in public when I am not talking to them. Here are a couple of examples.

James 4:4
"—a friend of the world is the enemy of God."

Luke 6:26
If you are popular and the world likes you, you are in trouble with God.

I drive a 2000 Rav 4, a small SUV. Mary and I are common people. Our desire is to work on this ministry night and day and then one day go to be with the Lord.

The more Grace and Truth grows, the more TV and radio we will broadcast from. If we are able, we will build a building and production center so that we can send tapes all over the world.

I believe that God can take care of you better

on 90% of your income than you can take care of yourself on 100% of your income.

When a man or woman does not support the preaching of truth

financially, they are looking for a free ride -- there are no free rides.

I hope this letter has helped those of you that have inquired about the tithe and offerings.

Jim

I Tim. 5:18
For the scripture saith, Thou shalt not muzzle the ox that treadeth out the corn. And, The laborer is worthy of his reward.

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