

HONOR THE LORD!

Pro 3:9 Honour the LORD with thy substance, and with the firstfruits of all thine increase:

Pro 3:10 So shall thy barns be filled with plenty, and thy presses shall burst out with new wine.

The subject of giving to the Lord has been one of the most misunderstood areas in the Word of God. What causes confusion to many Christians is the failure to understand the difference between the Old Covenant based upon the Law and the New Covenant based upon grace. Many Christian's understanding of tithing is based upon the Law and not upon grace. They fail to see the differences between the two covenants. The covenant of Law focuses on what you do to receive God's blessings. The new covenant of Grace is focuses on what God has done to bless us in Christ. These blessings are received by faith and produce works of faith. In the old covenant you had to give your tithes in order to be blessed. If you did not give then you were cursed. In the New Covenant you give because you have been blessed and have been forever redeemed from the curse!

Mal 3:8 Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings.

Mal 3:9 Ye are cursed with a curse: for ye have robbed me, even this whole nation.

Mal 3:10 Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the LORD of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it.

If you did not pay tithes in the Old Testament it was robbing God and you were cursed with a curse. Many still tithe today with this Old Covenant understanding about tithing. They tithe out of fear of being cursed. Many are fearful if they miss paying their tithes that something bad will happen to them. Paying tithes so nothing bad will happen to you is really no different than those who pay protection money to the mafia so nothing bad will happen to them! God is not like the mafia!

Many are surprised to find out that tithing actually predates the Law. The first person that tithed in the Bible was Abraham, the patriarch of faith. Let's look at why Abraham gave his tithe.

Gen 14:18 And Melchizedek king of Salem brought forth bread and wine: and he was the priest of the most high God.

Gen 14:19 And he blessed him, and said, Blessed be Abram of the most high God, possessor of heaven and earth:

Gen 14:20 And blessed be the most high God, which hath delivered thine enemies into thy hand. And he gave him tithes of all.

Here Melchizedek met and blessed Abraham. The scripture teaches that this Melchizedek was a type of Christ. This man which was a type of Christ blessed Abraham, a type of every believer. He blessed him with all the blessings of heaven and earth. **After** he was blessed it says Abraham gave tithes of all. Notice what it does not say. It does not say the Abraham gave tithes to Melchizedek and **then** he got blessed. No! He was blessed by Melchizedek and then Abraham gave tithes in faith in that blessing! Dear Christian, I want you to know that you have already been blessed. No, don't run off to look at your checkbook or online account.

Don't look at the natural. You need to look at the Word of God and believe it!

Eph 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ:

One might say, "Yes Rick but that is spiritual blessings and not natural blessings like finances" Oh really!

Php 4:19 But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

Paul here says our natural needs including finances are supplied by the riches all ready given to us in glory in Christ Jesus. We have been blessed already with all we will ever need. We need to believe it, speak it, and act on it!

Tithing is scriptural for the believer today because Abraham, the father of faith, gave tithes before the Law. Tithing is valid to the New Testament believer but we are to give for a different reason than those who gave under the Law. We are not to tithe under the precepts of the Law but under Grace. The **first reason** we give tithes in the New Testament is because we have **already been blessed** and it is an act of faith to give the tithe to the Lord. The **second reason** we give tithes is because it is God's ordained way His covenant be spread and His ministers been provided for. The **third and MAIN reason** we are to tithe under the New Covenant is that it **honors the Lord Jesus**. Proverbs brings out that we are to honor the Lord by giving of the firstfruits of our increase. The tithe and firstfruits were connected in the Bible because in those times it was an agricultural society. Most of the tithes were paid in crops and produce. People tithed from their firstfruits. God wanted people to tithe their first fruits to Him to honor Him. It is important to understand

that the Law was filled with shadows and types of Jesus Christ. The Law and all of its commandments pointed to Christ. **The firstfruits and the tithe are both types of Christ Jesus!**

1Co 15:23 But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming.

Firstfruits and the tithe are both types of Jesus Christ. God gave His first and best to us to redeem and save us. Christ in His resurrection is the firstfruits from among the dead. Christ and His perfect obedience of the cross and His perfect righteousness given to us at the resurrection of Christ is the reason for our being blessed in the New Covenant. When we freely bring the tithe to God it represents God's only begotten Son! It represents the reason and basis for our blessings. God wants you to bring your tithe to Him and place your faith in His Son and His redemptive work for you. **Your tithe given in faith brings Jesus Christ and the covenant made in His blood before God the Father!** When we bring our tithe which represents Christ to God, then our Lord is honored! We honor Jesus Christ when we give freely our tithe because it represents all He did for us and is to God for us. When we give from faith in God having already blessing us then that act of faith releases those blessings that are in heavenly places. Tithing in the New Testament is an act of faith that releases to us in the natural what already belongs to us in the spiritual. When we give in faith then that act of faith draws upon our spiritual riches in Christ.

We must check our motives in giving. Are we giving to get blessed or because we are blessed? Are we giving because we love the work of God and those who minister to us or because we feel that something bad will happen if we don't? Are we giving our tithe as a representation of Christ

which is God's firstfruits and the reason and basis for our blessings or because it is one of many Christian duties? If our heart motives are right then our barns will be filled with plenty and our vats will flow with new wine because we will tap into the riches already given to us in Christ! If we give under the precepts of the Old Covenant such as –“have to”, “need to in order to be blessed”, “to avoid the curse”, then we will find that our giving will be unproductive and not pleasing to the Lord. Honor the Lord with your substance and with the firstfruits. Bring your tithe which represents Christ and place your faith in the blessings you have been already given. Give because you have been blessed and you will see more of it released in your life. Bring before God a representation of His Son! Honor the Lord with your firstfruits!