

1889 - Study Guide #16 – Financial Obligations

XVI – That means for the support of evangelical work among men should be contributed from love to God and love of souls, not raised by church lotteries, or occasions designed to contribute to the fun-loving, appetite-indulging propensities of the sinner, such as fairs, festivals, oyster suppers, tea, broom, donkey, and crazy socials, etc., which are a disgrace to the professed church of Christ; that the proportion of one's income required in former dispensation can be no less under the gospel; that it is the same as Abraham (whose children we are, if we are Christ's, Gal. 3:29) paid to Melchisedec (type of Christ) when he gave him a tenth of all (Heb. 7:1-4); the title is the Lord's (Lev. 27:30); and this tenth of one's income is also to be supplemented by offerings from those who are able, for the support of the gospel. 2 Cor. 9:6; Mal. 3:8, 10.

1. That means for the support of evangelical work among men should be contributed from love to God and love of souls, not raised by church lotteries, or occasions designed to contribute to the fun-loving, appetite-indulging propensities of the sinner, such as fairs, festivals, oyster suppers, tea, broom, donkey, and crazy socials, etc., which are a disgrace to the professed church of Christ;

2Corinthians 9:7 Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, [so let him give]; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver.

When Israel were commanded to build a house for God, God instructed them to bring offerings willingly

Exodus 25:2 Speak unto the children of Israel, that they bring me an offering: of every man that giveth it willingly with his heart ye shall take my offering.

When David was preparing materials for the temple, the people offered willingly.

1Chronicles 29:9 Then the people rejoiced, for that they offered willingly, because with perfect heart they offered willingly to the LORD: and David the king also rejoiced with great joy.

Thought Question(s):

1. Why does God require people to donate for His work, when He could easily create the means He needs?
2. Why do you think our attitude matters when we donate to His work?

2. that the proportion of one's income required in former dispensation can be no less under the gospel;

1Corinthians 16:2 Upon the first [day] of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as [God] hath prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come.

This verse lays down a principle that our giving should be in proportion to the degree that God prospers us. This is not restricted to financial prosperity, but also refers to the amount of light and blessings we have enjoyed. In the Gospel dispensation, do we not enjoy greater light and privileges.

Spiritual prosperity in the gospel dispensation

1Peter 2:9 “But ye [are] a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath *called you out of darkness into his marvellous light*.”

2Timothy 1:10 “But is now made manifest by the appearing of our Saviour Jesus Christ, who hath abolished death, and hath brought *life and immortality to light through the gospel*.”

2Corinthians 4:4 “In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the *light of the glorious gospel* of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.”

Hebrews 1:1, 2 ¹“God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, ²Hath in these last days spoken unto us by [his] Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds;”

Thought Question(s):

1. Is your light and blessings, equal to or greater than what the people of Israel had? If so, in what way? Then what is your obligation to show your thankfulness to God?

3. that it is the same as Abraham (whose children we are, if we are Christ's, Gal. 3:29) paid to Melchisedec (type of Christ) when he gave him a tenth of all (Heb. 7:1-4); the title is the Lord's (Lev. 27:30);

Abraham gave a tenth to God

Hebrews 7:1-2 ¹“For this Melchisedec, king of Salem, priest of the most high God, who met Abraham returning from the slaughter of the kings, and blessed him; ²To whom also Abraham gave a tenth part of all; ...”

Stewardship principle can be found in Eden

Ge 2:16, 17 ¹⁶“And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: ¹⁷But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.”

God withheld one tree from Adam and Eve. This would serve to remind them that they were not the creators or owners of the Garden, but simply the caretakers of God's garden.

Jacob followed in Abraham's example of giving a tenth back to God

Genesis 28:22 “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.”

Israel were commanded to tithe

Leviticus 27:30 “And all the tithe of the land, [whether] of the seed of the land, [or] of the fruit of the tree, [is] the LORD'S: [it is] holy unto the LORD. “

Leviticus 27:32 “And concerning the tithe of the herd, or of the flock, [even] of whatsoever passeth under the rod, the tenth shall be holy unto the LORD.”

Tithe was to be used for the support of those who served in the tabernacle

Numbers 18:21 “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.”

Thought Question(s):

1. When a renter pays his rent, what is that an acknowledgement of?
2. What are we acknowledging when we return the tithe to God?
3. Who are those today signified by the Levites?

4. and this tenth of one's income is also to be supplemented by offerings from those who are able, for the support of the gospel. 2 Cor. 9:6; Mal. 3:8, 10.

2Corinthians 9:6 “⁶But this [I say], He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully. ⁷Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, [so let him give]; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver.”

Second Tithe

Pacific Union Recorder December 4, 1902 A.T. Jones, p. 4 par. 5 “But the second tithe was retained by the person who tithed it, and was spent by him in whatever way he might choose, only in the service of the Lord.”

Deuteronomy 14:22-29 “²²Thou shalt truly tithe all the increase of thy seed, that the field bringeth forth year by year. ²³And thou shalt eat before the LORD thy God, in the place which he shall choose to place his name there, the tithe of thy corn, of thy wine, and of thine oil, and the firstlings of thy herds and of thy flocks; that thou mayest learn to fear the LORD thy God always. ²⁷And the Levite that [is] within thy gates; thou shalt not forsake him; for he hath no part nor inheritance with thee. ²⁸At the end of three years thou shalt bring forth all the tithe of thine increase the same year, and shalt lay [it] up within thy gates: ²⁹And the Levite, (because he hath no part nor inheritance with thee,) and the stranger, and the fatherless, and the widow, which [are] within thy gates, shall come, and shall eat and be satisfied; that the LORD thy God may bless thee in all the work of thine hand which thou doest.”

Other Offerings

Acts of the Apostles p. 75 par. 1 “It is God who blesses men with property, and He does this that they may be able to give toward the advancement of His cause. He sends the sunshine and the rain. He causes vegetation to flourish. He gives health and the ability to acquire means. All our blessings come from His bountiful hand. In turn, He would have men and women show their gratitude by returning Him a portion in tithes and offerings--in thank offerings, in freewill offerings, in trespass offerings. Should means flow into the treasury in accordance with this divinely appointed plan,--a tenth of all the increase, and liberal offerings,--there

would be an abundance for the advancement of the Lord's work.”

Acts of the Apostles p. 74 par. 2 “God has made the proclamation of the gospel dependent upon the labors and the gifts of His people. Voluntary offerings and the tithe constitute the revenue of the Lord's work. Of the means entrusted to man, God claims a certain portion,--the tenth. He leaves all free to say whether or not they will give more than this. ...”

Example of the early church to help one another and support the preaching of the Gospel

Acts 4:34, 35 “³⁴Neither was there any among them that lacked: for as many as were possessors of lands or houses sold them, and brought the prices of the things that were sold, ³⁵And laid them down at the apostles' feet: and distribution was made unto every man according as he had need.”

Example of the rulers in Israel in the time of David and Solomon to build the temple

1Chronicles 29:6-8 “⁶Then the chief of the fathers and princes of the tribes of Israel, and the captains of thousands and of hundreds, with the rulers of the king's work, offered willingly, ⁷And gave for the service of the house of God of gold five thousand talents and ten thousand drams, and of silver ten thousand talents, and of brass eighteen thousand talents, and one hundred thousand talents of iron. ⁸And they with whom [precious] stones were found gave [them] to the treasure of the house of the LORD, by the hand of Jehiel the Gershonite.”

Withholding tithes and offerings is robbing God and merits a curse. Faithfulness in this matter brings a blessing.

Malachi 3:8 “⁸Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings. ⁹Ye [are] cursed with a curse: for ye have robbed me, [even] this whole nation. ¹⁰Bring 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]. ¹¹And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, and he shall not destroy the fruits of your ground; neither shall your vine cast her fruit before the time in the field, saith the LORD of hosts. ¹²And all nations shall call you blessed: for ye shall be a delightsome land, saith the LORD of hosts.

Thought Question(s):

1. What is the total of our obligations to God?
2. Should we go beyond our obligations? If so, are there any guidelines to govern us?
3. How was Israel told to use their second tithe?
2. How serious is the matter of tithes and offerings?