

How Much Should We Give? Are We To Give A Tithe?

No standard until the Mosaic Law

- 1.) Numbers 18:1-6; 21-24 (Tithe to the Levites)
- 2.) Deuteronomy 14:22-27 (Tithe to keep for the Festivals)
- 3.) Deuteronomy 14:28-29 (Tithe to the Poor, every third year)

These 3 tithes equaled over 23%. All were mandatory.

Other requirements

Leviticus 19:9-10 – Round the corners of your field and not harvest them or anything dropped while harvesting. All was to be left for the poor.

Nehemiah 10:32-33 – 1/3 shekel temple tax

Exodus 23:10-11 – No planting or harvesting every 7th year

Are We Commanded To Give A Tithe? **No**

- Which tithe would you pick? One? All? How would you fulfill that?
- Tithing was under the Mosaic Law; Believers are no longer under the law (Romans, Galatians, 1 Corinthians)
- Tithing was a mandatory tax to support the nation of Israel; Believers are not a part of the theocratic nation
- Tithing is never mentioned in any instructions to the church, although giving is talked about often

Old Testament Giving

What and How did they **give** over and above what was required?

The building of the Tabernacle:

Exodus 35:4-9

Exodus 35:20-29

Exodus 36:2-7

New Testament Giving

2 Corinthians 8-9 – The most detailed example of Christian giving in the New Testament

Paul was travelling to different churches collecting money for the church in Jerusalem. This was the very first church ever, and it was poor and in need.

Why Was It Poor And In Need? (Acts)

1.) Populated By Pilgrims – Jews from all over came to celebrate the Feast of Pentecost.

Acts 1 – setting - a unique time and feeling

Acts 2:1-11

Why Was It Poor And In Need? (Acts)

1.) Populated By Pilgrims – Jews from all over came to celebrate the Feast of Pentecost.

Acts 2:1-11 – 3 feasts of the Jews were called “Pilgrimage Feasts”

- Pesach (Passover) – Commemorates God freeing the Jews from slavery in Egypt
- Shavuot (Pentecost) – Commemorates the giving of the Torah at Mt. Sinai
- Sukkot (Tabernacles, Tents, Booths) – Commemorates the harvest

Why Was It Poor And In Need? (Acts)

1.) Populated By Pilgrims – Jews from all over came to celebrate the Feast of Pentecost. 8,000 men (not including their families) were saved (Acts 2:40-41; 4:1-4). At the time, it was the only church in the world. There was no place to go, no other Christians. Who stayed after the Festival was over? Poor, widowed, homeless, etc.

2.) Persecuted Jews – Jerusalem is the Holy City. Orthodox Jews, that were converted, were disowned by their families. Alienated and hated, they lost everything. Acts 8:1-3

3.) Roman Economy – This area is poor to begin with. Under Roman rule they were overtaxed and stolen from. Time of famine and they were poor – Acts 11:19-30

How Were They Given To?

1 Corinthians 16:1-3 – Now concerning the collection for the saints: as I directed the churches of Galatia, so you also are to do. On the first day of every week, each of you is to put something aside and store it up, as he may prosper, so that there will be no collecting when I come. And when I arrive, I will send those whom you accredit by letter to carry your gift to Jerusalem.

How Were They Given To?

1 Corinthians 16:1 – Now concerning the **collection for the saints**: as I directed the churches of Galatia, so you also are to do.

- The **priority** of giving in the New Testament is for **support of the saints**, the church.

Philippians 4:14-16 – Yet it was kind of you to share my trouble. And you Philippians yourselves know that in the beginning of the gospel, when I left Macedonia, no church entered into partnership with me in giving and receiving, except you only. Even in Thessalonica **you sent me help for my needs** once and again.

Galatians 6:10 – So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and **especially to those who are of the household of faith**.

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- The **priority** of giving in the New Testament is for **support of the saints**, the church.
- Obviously that is not the only responsibility we have

Luke 10:25-37 – (Parable of the Good Samaritan) Anyone in need.

1 John 3:17 – But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him?

How Were They Given To?

1 Corinthians 16:2 – **On the first day of every week**, each of you is to put something aside and store it up, as he may prosper, so that there will be no collecting when I come.

- The most appropriate way to give is **weekly (first day), every week. WHY?**
 - The church met on Sunday - “first day”

John 20:19-20 – On the **evening of that day, the first day of the week**, the doors being locked where the disciples were for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, “Peace be with you.” When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord.

Acts 20:7 – On **the first day of the week**, when we were gathered together to break bread,...

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- The most appropriate way to give is **weekly (first day), every week. WHY?**
 - The church met on Sunday - “first day”
 - Worship included regular giving of money – it’s not random. The Spirit may lead us to give at special times, but His primary leading is purposeful and regular (**weekly**).
 - Not a legalistic requirement, but the point is, giving is to be part of our worship.
 - How does that affect our “mindset?”

How Were They Given To?

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- All-inclusive
 - From the poorest – Mark 12-41-44 (Widow's 2 copper coins were accepted, praised)
 - Generosity best determined when we're without (Easy to give when you have much)

Luke 16:10 – One who is faithful in a very little is also faithful in much, and one who is dishonest in a very little is also dishonest in much.

How Were They Given To?

1 Corinthians 16:2 – On the **first day of every week**, each of you is to **put something aside and store it up**, as he may prosper, **so that there will be no collecting when I come**.

- Giving is primarily to the church for the leaders to disperse – Acts 4:33-35
- The reason, “**so that there will be no collecting when I come**” is there, is so the funds are available for the church to give as needed, without delay.
- Nothing in scripture says that all of our giving has to be to the church.
 - You may give to other ministries or have some on hand (kept available) for emergencies or things you’d rather do anonymously.
 - But your ideals should line up with the church you go to, which should support God’s people and ministries the same way you would want, which would lead you to give to your local church (that’s why we have open budget meetings). Acts 1:8

How Were They Given To?

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- Remember, there is no mandatory tithe, it is a heart issue.

How Were They Given To?

1 Corinthians 16:3 – And when I arrive, **I will send those whom you accredit** by letter to carry your gift to Jerusalem.

- We're supposed to trust in the leadership to do what's right. Godly, responsible men.
- Acts 6:1-3 – Eventually the disciples needed help, so they appointed Godly men.

2 Corinthians 8-9

- Paul has already collected from Macedonia (Philippi, Thessalonica, Berea), Galatia, and Achaia.
- Now Paul wants Corinth to give to the Church at Jerusalem like the others have.
- So Paul gives an example of how Macedonia gave.

2 Corinthians 8:1-15 – Macedonia was poor; wars had been fought on their land; Roman rule for 200 years. Yet watch their reaction to Paul's request.

v1 - Motivated by God's grace

v2 - Transcends difficult circumstances, gave with joy, not hindered by poverty, giving was generous

v3 – giving was proportionate, sacrificial, voluntary

v4 – giving was a privilege

v5 – act of worship (gave themselves), submission to pastors

v7 – in concert with other Christian virtues

v8 – it's not a command, God wants your heart

v9 – Jesus is our example

v12 – God is most concerned with your heart attitude. if you have much – give much, if you have little – give little

v13-15 – not a redistribution of wealth, but to meet basic needs

2 Corinthians 9:6-15

v6 – guiding principle

v7 – We shouldn't give reluctantly or under compulsion. We should give willfully.

v8 – God, who has an infinite amount of grace, gives it abundantly. Here, grace is not referring to the spiritual, but the material. When we abundantly give, God replenishes so that we always have more. So that we are not in need and that we can meet others needs.

v9 – quotes Psalm 112

Psalm 112

- 1 Praise the Lord! Blessed is the man who fears the Lord, who greatly delights in his commandments!
- 2 His offspring will be mighty in the land; the generation of the upright will be blessed.
- 3 **Wealth and riches are in his house, and his righteousness endures forever.**
- 4 Light dawns in the darkness for the upright; he is gracious, merciful, and righteous.
- 5 It is well with the man who deals generously and lends; who conducts his affairs with justice.
- 6 For the righteous will never be moved; he will be remembered forever.
- 7 He is not afraid of bad news; his heart is firm, trusting in the Lord.
- 8 His heart is steady; he will not be afraid, until he looks in triumph on his adversaries.
- 9 **He has distributed freely; he has given to the poor; his righteousness endures forever;** his horn is exalted in honor.
- 10 The wicked man sees it and is angry; he gnashes his teeth and melts away; the desire of the wicked will perish!

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v11 – It causes us to thank God

v12 – It causes others to thank God

v13-15 – God gets the glory

2 Corinthians 9:6-15

- We are grateful to God for what we receive
 - So we can give to those who need
 - So both them, and us, can praise God
 - Who is more glorified by more people