

DO YOU UNDERSTAND THESE PRINCIPLES OF GRACE-GIVING? Pt. 1 (1 Corinthians 16:1-4)

*****A Summary on Tithing*****

- 1) Tithing was contrasted with **FREE WILL OFFERINGS** in the OT. (Deut. 12:6, 11, 16-19; 2 Ch. 31:12)
- 2) Tithing { 10% } is totally **ABSENT** as a mandate or mode of giving in the NT Epistles for the **CHURCH**.
- 3) Tithing was a **MANDATORY & OBLIGATORY TAX OF 10%** upon **ALL** adult citizens { believers and unbelievers } of the **CHILDREN OF ISRAEL** (Lev. 27:30-34; Numbers 18:21-28; Lev. 12:1-17, 14:22-25, 26:12-15; 2 Chron. 31:5-6; Amos 4:4-5; Mal. 3:8-9) as a national form of taxation under the Law, while free will offerings were **VOLUNTARILY** done by believers **OUT OF GRATITUDE TO THE LORD & TO SUPPORT THE WORK OF THE LORD WITHOUT ANY SPECIFIC PERCENTAGE REQUIRED** (Ex. 35:29; Lev. 1:3, 19:5, 22:29). The Church is not a nation like Israel under Law but consists of believers in Christ from various nations as an international or trans-national entity under Grace.
- 4) **Tithing under the Law consisted of 3 different tithes:**
 - a. The **LEVITICAL** tithes - 10% yearly - to support the priests and Levites for their Tabernacle / Temple ministry since they were not given an inheritance of land like the other tribes of Israel were given. (Lev. 27:30; Numbers 18:21,24; Deut. 14:24; 2 Chron. 31:5)
 - b. The **FESTIVAL** tithes - 10% yearly - to pay for putting on and enjoying national feasts (Dt. 14:22-27)
 - c. The **LOCAL POOR** tithes of crops / produce- 10% every 3rd year to provide for the needs of the stranger { who could not own land }, the orphan, and the widow. (Deut. 14:28, 29, 26:12)
 - d. Thus, tithing would calculate to obligatory giving of **23 1/3 % yearly**, and also additional government taxes once the kings began ruling.
- 5) Tithing { obedience to the Law } was rewarded by God with **PHYSICAL BLESSINGS IN ABUNDANCE**, while believers under grace-giving are **NOT** promised the same physical blessings **UNDER** Grace but have been blessed with **ALL** spiritual blessings and various amounts of physical blessings. (Mal. 3:6-12; Deut. 28:1-14; 1 Tim. 6:6-8)
- 6) To not pay your tithes as an adult Jew under the Law in support of the priests and Levites was to **ROB GOD** who required these tithes to be faithfully done by the **WHOLE NATION**. (Mal. 3:10)
- 7) Tithing { Law-keeping } was never a means of **JUSTIFICATION BEFORE GOD** (Luke 18:12-14; Gal. 2:16,20), nor was it necessarily a reflection of true **SPIRITUALITY** among religious individuals (Amos 4:4-5; Matthew 23:23)

1. Grace - giving is designed to be an act of _____ toward God and faithful _____ of what He has graciously given to you. It was not designed for you to impress others. (16:1-2)

- What happened on the “first day of the week”?
- John 4:22-23; Hebrews 13:15-16; Philippians 4:18; Matthew 6:1-4; 1 Cor. 10:31; Col. 3:23
- Why did they gather on the 1st day of the week & why not on the 7th day, the Sabbath?

***** 7 TRUTHS ABOUT THE SABBATH *****

- 1) On the 7th day of the creation week, God _____ (shabat) from all His work, forming the basis for the _____ week. (Gen.2:1-3; Ex. 20:8-11)
- 2) There is ____ mention of the Sabbath until _____ and then only in reference to the nation of _____. (Exodus 16:30).
- 3) Sabbath-keeping became codified as Law in the 10 Commandments as the ___ commandment (Ex.20:9-11) and was to function as a _____ of God’s _____ with Israel as His chosen people. (Ex. 31:13-14)
- 4) The penalty for not observing the Sabbath under the Law was _____. (Ex.31:13-14; Nu. 15:32-36)
- 5) Under the dispensation of grace, Church-age believers are to _____ any attempts to make Sabbath-keeping or “holy days” as _____ upon the Christian as a standard or means of salvation or spirituality. (Col.2:16-17; Gal.4:7-10, 5:1)
- 6) Instead of setting aside one day for the believer to “rest”, God has provided a perpetual _____ life when you are mixing the promises / principles of God with faith in the Lord. (Hebrews 4:1-11)
- 7) Under the Dispensation of Grace, _____ is not the “Christian Sabbath”, although the 1st day was modeled, but not mandated, as the day for Christian _____ and _____ because it celebrated the day our Lord’s resurrected. (Matt.28:1ff; Acts 20:7; 1 Cor. 16:1-2)

2. Grace-giving was the _____ manner of giving among New Testament churches. (16:1)

So why was Paul explaining this practice & procedure about giving to the Corinthian church?

3. Grace - giving can be specifically initiated & compelled by an expressed genuine _____ to support others.

- What was the specific need here? Was Paul afraid to make this need known?
- Why was there this financial need among these Jewish saints by Jerusalem & Judea?
 - a. _____ (Acts 2-4)
 - b. _____ (Acts 8)
 - c. _____ (Acts 11:28)
 - d. _____ (Matthew 22:21)
- What are some other physical needs that your grace-giving can meet?
 - a. _____ (Matthew 6:25-34)
 - b. _____ (1 Timothy 5:8)
 - c. _____ (Eph. 4:28; James 1:27)
 - d. _____ (1 Tim. 5:13-16)
 - e. _____ (Gal. 6:6)
 - f. _____ (1 Tim. 5:17-18)
 - g. _____ (1 Cor. 15:58; 16:6-11)

- What about the church using & paying for a “church” building?
 - a. **AD 33-48:** Acts 2ff when the early church was almost entirely Jewish believers who met in the open courtyard of the _____ (Acts 2:46, 5:42) & in _____ (Acts 2:2,46,5:42, 8:3, 12:12)
 - b. **AD 48-150:** Gentiles could not go together with Jewish believers into the Temple, or sit together with Jewish believers in the Synagogues per se, so they normally utilized the _____ of believers in Christ at the time of the church gathering (Acts 18:7-8, 20:20; Rom. 16:5; 1 Cor. 16:19; Col. 4:15; Philemon 1:2), and they even used a _____ (Acts 19:9)
 - c. **AD 150-250:** Archaeology shows us that Christians were using _____ that had rooms constructed to accommodate larger public gatherings, along with the _____.
 - d. **AD 250-313:** Archaeology shows _____ or _____ owned by Christians were being used for a _____ place.
 - e. **AD 313-present:** With the Emperor Constantine becoming a “Christian”, he Christianized the Empire at the Edict of Milan. So the church was freed from persecution and didn’t have to stay underground anymore, and Christians started building _____ as meeting places to gather for “worship” and this has continued on down to our day.
- How should we view a “church building”?