

INTRODUCTION: PROVIDENTIAL SERMON TOPIC

- A. DIACONATE SERMON REQUEST** (see Hag.1:4f,6; Neh.13:10f; yet Ex.25:2f & 36:5f)
- B. RPM&M REQUEST** (see bulletin insert)
- C. IRS AUDIT REQUEST & CHURCH ENVELOPES**
- D. THANKSGIVING** (this Thursday)

I. SURVEY OF GIVING IN THE BIBLE

A. TITHES

1. definition: ten, tenth; decimal (see Lev.27:30,32)
2. practice: ancient and widespread (Gen.14:20; 28:22)
3. significance: substantial sign of submission to the Sovereign King (Gen.28:21,22; Heb.7:1-10)
4. subject: all increase that God gives (Gen.14:20; 28:22; Deut.14:22,28; 2Chr.31:5,6; Heb.7:2; Mt.23:23; Lk.18:12/ ie, grand total compensation value(!))
5. quality: first, choicest, best (Heb.7:14; Num.18:29,32; *contra* Mal.1:8,13/)
6. object: God (Num.18:24,28,29)
7. use: prescribed by God (non-discretionary; undesignated (eg, taxes); Num.18:21-32; Lev.27:30-33; Mal.3:10)
8. manner: cheerfully (Deut.26:14; 14:26; 12:18)
9. nature: obligatory, due (Num.18:21f; Mt.23:23; see Gen.14:20; 2:3)
10. kinds
 - a. *first tithe: Levites/Priests* (Lev.27:30f/Num.18:21f; see 2Chr.31; Neh.10:38,39; 12:44; 13:12; also 1Tm.5:17f; 1Cor.9:14)
 - b. *second tithe: festival/hospitality* (Jerusalem; Deut.12:5f; 14:22-27; see Lk.14:13; Rom.12:13; 1Tm.3:2; Tt.1:8; 1Pt.4:9/ see 1Sam.8:15,17)
 - c. *third tithe: poor tithe* (own town; every 3rd year; Deut.14:27-29; 26:12f; true 3rd or 2nd use of 2nd?; see Acts 2:42; **4:34,35; 6:1f**; Phil.1:1)
11. summary: biblical standard (Gen.14:20; 28:22; Num.18:20f; 1S.8:15,17; 2Chr.31:5f; Neh.10:37f; Lk.11:42; Heb.7:2-6)

B. OFFERINGS

1. definition: that which is lifted up; brought near (Lev.22:15,18; “corban”; Mk.7:11)
2. kinds: comprehensive (see Deut.12:6,11,17,26; Neh.10:34; Heb.5:1a)
3. amount: any (Lk.21:1f)
4. divisions by purpose
 - a. *forgiveness of sins* (Lev.4:20,26,35/Heb.10:12,18; 2Cor.5:21a)
 - b. *favor* (Mal.1:8,9,10/Heb.10:10,14; 2Cor.5:21b)
 - c. *thanksgiving* (Lev.7:11-21/Heb.13:15)
 - d. *particular needs* (Ex.25:2; 35:5f; Ez.3:5; 2Chr.31:10; 2Cor.8,9)
5. includes non-material offerings
 - a. *praise* (Ps.50:14,23; 116:16-18; Heb.13:15)
 - b. *prayer* (Heb.5:7; see Ps.50:14,15)
6. people (Rom.12:1f; 15:16; see Phil.2:17; 2Tim.4:6)

C. ALMS (see “third tithe” in II,A,10,c above)

1. definition: acts of provision for what is needed but not due (“mercyness”; Jms.2:15-17; 1Jn.3:17,18)
2. many examples and encouragements
 - a. *wisdom* (Prov.3:27; 22:9; 28:27)
 - b. *prophets* (Is.10:2; 58:7; Amos 2:7; Jer.5:28; Ezek.22:29; Dan.4:24)
 - c. *the LORD* (Mt.6:1-4,19; Lk.3:11; 6:30; 11:41; 12:33; note: Lk.8:3; Jn.13:29; 2Cor.9:8)
 - d. *the apostolic church* (Acts 3:2f,10; 6:1f; 9:36,37; 10:2,4,31; 24:17; Heb.13:15,16; 1Tm.6:17f)
3. motive: relieve as relieved (Lev.25:38,35f; see 2Cor.9:8; Lk.6:36; 1Jn.4:19)
4. manner: freely, abundantly, gladly (Deut.15:7f; 2Cor.9:5,7)
5. significance: an essential feature of godly man (Ps.41:1; 112:9=2Cor.9:9; Prov.14:31; Job 29:13; Acts 10:1,2)
6. amount: from what have, not what don’t have (2Cor.8:12f) yet beyond what you may think possible (1Cor.16:2; 2Cor.9:8-11; 8:3; see Lk.8:3; Jn.13:29)
7. eligibility to receive: not indiscriminate (2Thes.3:10; see Prov.15:19,etc.)

(completed on reverse)

II. FOCUS ON THANKOFFERINGS

- A. THANKS GIVING** (Lev.7:11f; 3:1f; peace: thank, vow, free; see Ps.50:14; 116:13; Jer.33:11; Heb.13:15)
- B. NO MORE BLOOD & FAT** (Heb.9:14 & 10:5f with 10:18; see Lev.7:22-27; 3:17; 17:6; see Jn.6:40&54)
- C. WHERE'S THE MEAT?!** (Lev.3,7; see Rom.12:1; see Heb.13:15,16; see Jms.2:14f,18)
- D. THANKS GIVING WITH THANKOFFERING** (see Ps.116:12-19; Heb.13:15,16)

III. MAKE GIVING MATERIAL GIFT TO GOD ESSENTIAL PART OF THANKSGIVING

A. WORD & WORKS: TWO WITNESSES (Dt.19:15; Mt.18:16; see Jms.2:14f,18; Eph.2:5f,10; Gal.5:22f; Mt.3:8; 7:17; see Mt.15:8,9; Ps.51:16,17&18,19)

1. Jesus is my Lord (word & *tithes*; see Gen.14:20(Heb.7:4f); 28:21,22; 2Kngs.17:3,4)
2. I love God with all my heart (word & *offerings* (esp. peace (thank, vow, free); Lev.3,7); Mt.22:37; see Ps.116:12f; Jer.33:11; Heb.13:15,16)
3. I love my neighbor as myself (word & *alms*; Mt.22:39; see Lk.10:27f)

B. PAY TITHES AND, IF NECESSARY, RECEIVE ALMS (note: escrow offer; Mal.3:10)

C. GIVE A GIFT TO GOD IN THANKS FOR HIS GOODNESS TO YOU THIS THANKSGIVING
(see Ps.116:12f; Lev.3,7; Heb.13:15,16)

D. NEVER COME BEFORE GOD EMPTY-HANDED (Ex.23:15; 34:20; Dt.16:16,17; see Ps.45:12; 72:10; 96:8; see Mt.22:37f)

E. EXCEL STILL MORE IN ALL THESE THINGS (1Th.4:1,10; Heb.5:12f; 1Pt.2:2)

F. DEVELOP THESE PRINCIPLES & PRACTICES IN YOUR CHILDREN (Eph6:4; 2T3:14f; Ps78:1f)

Brethren, what shall we do? (see Acts 2:37f)