



Build One Another Up

*“Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.”
-1 Thessalonians 5:11*

Class III: BUILD with God’s Resources

Introduction: Did God give us instructions on how much we are to give?

⁶“For I the Lord do not change; therefore you, O children of Jacob, are not consumed. ⁷From the days of your fathers you have turned aside from my statutes and have not kept them. Return to me, and I will return to you, says the Lord of hosts. But you say, ‘How shall we return?’ ⁸Will man rob God? Yet you are robbing me. But you say, ‘How have we robbed you?’ In your tithes and contributions. ⁹You are cursed with a curse, for you are robbing me, the whole nation of you. ¹⁰Bring the full tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. And thereby put me to the test, says the Lord of hosts, if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you a blessing until there is no more need. ¹¹I will rebuke the devourer^[b] for you, so that it will not destroy the fruits of your soil, and your vine in the field shall not fail to bear, says the Lord of hosts. ¹²Then all nations will call you blessed, for you will be a land of delight, says the Lord of hosts. (Mal 3:6-12)

Hermeneutics: the assumptions we make when we approach the Bible.

Three Categories of God’s Law: Civil, Ceremonial, and Moral

1. Which, if any, apply today?

WCF 19.5: The moral law doth forever bind all, as well justified persons as others, to the obedience thereof; and that, not only in regard of the matter contained in it, but also in respect of the authority of God the Creator, who gave it. Neither doth Christ, in the gospel, any way dissolve, but much strengthen this obligation.

2. Which category of law does the tithe fall into?

Genesis 14:18-20, [18] And Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine. (He was priest of God Most High.) [19] And he blessed him and said, “Blessed be Abram by God Most High, Possessor of heaven and earth; [20] and blessed be God Most High, who has delivered your enemies into your hand!” And Abram gave him a tenth of everything. (ESV)

Genesis 28:20-22, [20] Then Jacob made a vow, saying, “If God will be with me and will keep me in this way that I go, and will give me bread to eat and clothing to wear, [21] so that I come again to my father's house in peace, then the LORD shall be my God, [22] and this stone, which I have set up for a pillar, shall be God's house. And of all that you give me I will give a full tenth to you.” (ESV)

Matthew 23:23-24, [23] “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you tithe mint and dill and cumin, and have neglected the weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and faithfulness. These you ought to have done, without neglecting the others. [24] You blind guides, straining out a gnat and swallowing a camel!

Malachi on the Tithe: We ought to give...

1. Sacrificially:

Luke 21:1-4, “[1] Jesus looked up and saw the rich putting their gifts into the offering box, [2] and he saw a poor widow put in two small copper coins. [3] And he said, “Truly, I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all of them. [4] For they all contributed out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty put in all she had to live on.”

2. Strategically:

Malachi 3:10, “Bring the full tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house.”

3. Joyfully:

2 Corinthians 9:7, Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.”

4. Expectantly:

Prov 11:25, “Whoever brings blessing will be enriched, and one who waters will himself be watered.”

Luke 6:38, “Give, and it will be given to you. Good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap. For with the measure you use it will be measured back to you.”

2 Corinthians 9:6, “Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully.”

Application Questions:

1. Isn't it legalism to say that we have to give a certain amount?
2. Do we have to tithe to the church, or can we tithe to worthy organizations and ministries as well?
3. Should we tithe on the gross or on the net?
4. If I haven't given tithes in the past, should I tithe on everything that I have earned but never tithed?
5. Should I still tithe if I'm in debt?
6. I'm a child. Should I tithe?

Questions for Reflection: please use the following question together with your family to consider your own heart's position on stewardship:

1. Do you agree with the tithing principle as taught today? If you disagree, is it based on your background, your preference, or your understanding of Scripture?
2. Does the thought of giving a tithe cause you to worry?
3. How could you strategically re-prioritize so that you can be obedient to God in your giving?
4. What do you think it might look like for First Scots to be a “land of delight?”