

1 Tim. 5:17-18) Is it for oxen that God is concerned? ¹⁰ Does he not certainly speak for our sake? It was written for our sake, because the plowman should plow in hope and the thresher thresh in hope of sharing in the crop. ¹¹ If we have sown spiritual things among you, is it too much if we reap material things from you? ¹² If others share this rightful claim on you, do not we even more? ... ¹³ *Do you not know that those who are employed in the temple service get their food from the temple, and those who serve at the altar share in the sacrificial offerings?* ¹⁴ **In the same way, the Lord commanded that those who proclaim the gospel should get their living by the gospel.**

Galatians 6:6-7

⁶ Let the one who is taught the word share all good things with the one who teaches. ⁷ Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for ***whatever one sows, that will he also reap.*** (Cf. 2 Corinthians 9:6-11)

- God gave us Numbers 18 to teach us what “righteousness” looks like
 - The Peace Offering, etc. are the “teaching rules”... **What are we to learn?**
 - 10% is the “teaching rule”... **What are we to learn?**

Answer:

The tithe law in Numbers 18 guides the shape of our cheerful, generous support for Christian ministers. The duty to show concrete honor to God through giving to the church still stands as a moral obligation and 10% should be seen as practical guideline to help us put this duty into practice.

¹ Carson, D. A., France, R. T., Motyer, J. A., & Wenham, G. J. (Eds.). (1994). New Bible commentary: 21st century edition (4th ed., p. 186). Leicester, England; Downers Grove, IL: Inter-Varsity Press.

Notes:

In the Wilderness: The Book of Numbers

[#21 in Series] (Numbers 15-25) **Forty Years in the Wilderness: Part 6**
Why Should We Give Our Money to the Church? – Numbers 18:8-32

Sermon Outline – September 6, 2015

Children’s Sermon/Introduction

1 Corinthians 6:19b-20

... You are not your own, ²⁰ for ***you were bought with a price.*** So glorify God in your body.

- ❖ Teaching Rules (e.g. holding hands in the parking lot)
- ❖ Why a Soldier Salutes & We Say Mr. & Mrs. ...
- ❖ Talk is Cheap... (Eph. 4:32)

Why Should We Give Our Money to the Church?

What is Money?

Guiding Principles: (Old Covenant Law for Christians)

- Ceremonial Aspect (*Teach us about **Jesus***)
- Civil Aspect (*Teach us one way to **obey** a moral principle*)
- Moral Aspect (Unchangeable **Truth**)

Example: “Remember the Sabbath”

Key Concepts in Our Text:

- Priests (Jesus, Church); Levites (Ministers)
- Tithes (Tribute), Freewill Offerings/Gifts (Concrete Love), Most Holy Offerings (Jesus, Church)

Key Idea:

The giving of tithes, gifts & offerings to the priests and Levites gave Israel a concrete way to joyfully acknowledge God as their king.

God’s “Teaching Rules” about Expressing Honor

A Repudiation of the Leadership Rebellion

The Priests (Ceremonial Aspect Primary)

⁸ **Then the Lord spoke to Aaron,** “***Behold, I have given you charge of the contributions made to me,*** all the consecrated things of the people of Israel. I have given them to you as a portion and to your sons as a perpetual due.

Notes:

What does “Honor” mean?

The Most Holy Things (9-10; Grain, Sin/Guilt Offerings – Jesus)

The Holy Things (Gifts/Offerings)

¹¹ ***This also is yours:*** the contribution of **their gift**, ***all the wave offerings*** (the breast, right thigh – Peace Offering) of the people of Israel. I have given them ***to you, and to your sons and daughters*** with you...

- *Firstfruits* (v. 12) , *Every devoted thing* (v. 14)
- *Everything that opens the womb of all flesh*... (**But** the firstborn cow, sheep, or goat... Cf. Peace offerings)
- "a covenant of salt forever..."

²⁰ **And the Lord said to Aaron**, "You shall have no inheritance in their land, neither shall you have any portion among them. ***I am your portion and your inheritance among the people*** of Israel.

Our Response to Our High Priest (Rom. 12:1 – "living sacrifice"; Cf. Rom. 15:16; Phil. 4:15–19)

The Levites (Civil Aspect Primary)

Tithes (**What does the word, "tithe", refer to?**)

- ²¹ **To the Levites** I have given every **tithe**..." (Lv. 27:30-32)
- "in return for their service" (Guard; Substitution, "bear their iniquity")
- The Tithe is their inheritance... (24)

Tithe of the Tithe (25-32)

- The best of it... (29, 32)
- May not profane the holy things... (32)

Other Tithes (Deuteronomy 14:22-29)

Blessings & Curses

Malachi 3:8-10

⁸ Will man rob God? Yet you are robbing me. But you say, 'How have we robbed you?' In your tithes and contributions. ⁹ You are cursed with a curse, for you are robbing me, the whole nation of you. ¹⁰ Bring 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.

Notes:

From Handholding into Eternal Righteousness

Notes:

Key Question:

Why Should We Give Our Money to the Church?

It is a Way for Us to Express Honor (that We Belong to God)

- What you give to Ministers expresses what you think of God's authority.
- What you give to the poor expresses what you think of God's mercy.

What about tithing, is that a moral obligation?

Cheerful Generosity is the Moral Obligation

- Tithing was Around Before Moses (Abraham/Melchizedek – Gen. 14:20)
- Aaron was Put in Charge of God's Tithes... (Civil Code – Handholding)
- Jesus Fulfills the Priesthood (Cf. Hebrews 7:15-22)
"...as the Aaronic priesthood is fulfilled in Christ, there can be no doubt that the church's tithes are his also. There is continuity in the NT. Paul defended his right to a living from the gospel (1 Cor. 9:3-14)." ⁱ
- Jesus now provides us with people to receive the "tithes"

Matthew 10:10 (Jesus)

...no bag for your journey, or two tunics or sandals or a staff, ***for the laborer deserves his food.***

1 Corinthians 9:3-14 (Paul; Collection for the poor – 2 Corinthians 9:1-15)

³ This is my defense to those who would examine me. ⁴

Do we not have the right to eat and drink? ⁵ Do we not have the right to take along a believing wife, as do the other apostles and the brothers of the Lord and Cephas?

⁶ ***Or is it only Barnabas and I who have no right to refrain from working for a living?*** ⁷ Who serves as a soldier at his own expense? Who plants a vineyard without eating any of its fruit? Or who tends a flock without getting some of the milk? ⁸ Do I say these things on human authority? ***Does not the Law say the same?*** ⁹ For it is written in the Law of Moses, "*You shall not muzzle an ox when it treads out the grain.*" (Cf.