

Options for Funding Missions

II Corinthians 8.1-5

As part of regular Church budget

- Advantages:
- Simple
- Treats Missions as a “normal” Church expense, not a special one
- All who contribute to Church participate in Missions, not just those who give to Missions separately

- Disadvantages
- The possibility that people will be less interested in missions because it is simply part of the budget
- The possibility that Missions will have a more limited role because it is an additional expense from a limited fund

In addition to the regular Church budget

- The most common of these is known as “Faith Promise” missions giving
- It was developed by A.B. Simpson (founder of the Christian and Missionary Alliance)
- It is based upon Paul’s teaching in II Corinthians 8-9
- The underlying principle is that people will make a financial commitment by faith, trusting God to provide the funds

- Advantages
- It keeps missions in a prominent position in people's minds
- It provides an additional source of funds
- Disadvantages
- II Corinthians 8-9 are about giving, but not about giving to missions

Whatever model a Church chooses, the Biblical principles of finances are fixed

1. It is God's will that He funds His work through the giving of His people

- Exo.25:2 Speak unto the children of Israel, that they bring me an offering: of every man that giveth it willingly with his heart ye shall take my offering.

- God has never raised money by selling products, having garage sales, putting on shows, or having casino nights

2. God has established a minimum of what that giving will be: the tithe

- The first tithe is prior to the Law of Moses. Genesis 14.20
- The tithe is incorporated into the Law of Moses. Leviticus 27.30
- The tithe is validated by Jesus. Matthew 23.23

There are two arguments made against imposing the tithe upon NT people

- “The tithe was a tax on the Jewish government”
- “We are no longer under the Law”

The tithe was not a tax

- Numbers 18.24-26. If the tithe was a tax to support the government (The tribe of Levi), why did they have to tithe the tithe?
- At the institution of the tithe, Israel had no formal government as such. God was their king, the Levites did **PRIESTLY** work

- There were judges, but they were a separate category of men, and nothing suggests they received tithes.
Deuteronomy 19.17
- If the tithe was a tax to support government, why did God see the king taking tax money to support the government? I Samuel 8.11-18

Tithing extends into the NT

- Matthew 23.23
- I Corinthians 9.13-14 (Even so: “just like this”)

3. Tithing is always the minimum, but never the maximum

- II Corinthians 9.6-11