

WE WILL CONSIDER

- The tithe is a food tax.
- It was given to people in the nation of Israel who needed help providing food for themselves. God wants us to be generous.
- In Christ there is no commandment to pay tithes – everything should be dedicated to God.

The **B**iBLE EXHIBITION

THE TRUTH ABOUT

Tithing

What is Tithing?

The tithe was a 10% tax on food in the nation of Israel. Tithing supported people who needed help providing food for themselves. The spirit of this law is to be generous. Disciples of Christ do not need to pay tithes – everything should be dedicated to God.

“Every tithe of the land, whether of the seed of the land or of the fruit of the trees, is the LORD's”

Leviticus 27:30

The Hebrew word for a 'tithe' in the Old Testament just means a 'tenth'. It is used to describe one measure being 'one tenth' of another.

(Ezekiel 45:11,14). It is normally used for a tax rate on livestock and produce, paid either to the king (1 Samuel 8:15,17) or to people who needed income support, such as foreigners, who would not own land, or those whose providers had died (Deuteronomy 14:28-29). One of its main uses was for the Levites, who were employed in the tabernacle or temple but had no land of their own (Numbers 28:21,24).

What Tithing meant under the Law of Moses

“Before the LORD your God, in the place that He will choose, to make His name dwell there, you shall eat the tithe”

Deuteronomy 14:23

Before Christ came, Israel was under the law of Moses. Part of this law was a tax. A tenth of all food and animals that could be used for food was taken up for people who needed help providing for themselves.

The tithe for the Levites was taken to the tabernacle or temple and a feast was shared between everyone there. Tithes that could not be carried that far were converted to money, which was exchanged for food again at the end of the journey (Deuteronomy 14:23-26). Tithes would rarely be given as money for any other reason (Leviticus 27:31).

The Spirit of the Law of Tithing

“God loves a cheerful giver”

2 Corinthians 9:7

We should take every opportunity to be generous. “As we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith.” (Galatians 6:10) Just like the Levites were given food by the rest of Israel, it is right that “those who proclaim the gospel should get their living by the gospel.” (1 Corinthians 9:13-14) Jesus had no house of his own (Matthew 8:20), but relied on the support of others (Luke 8:3).

However, elders, overseers and deacons are all warned against being “greedy for gain” (1 Peter 5:2, 1 Timothy 3:3,8, Titus 1:7). Paul chose to work to support himself in the cities where he settled, rather than let money get in the way of his preaching (1 Corinthians 9:12). “I preached God's gospel to you free of charge” (2 Corinthians 11:7). This is a good example to follow. “With toil and labour we worked night and day, that we might not be a burden to any of you. It was not because we do not have that right, but to give you in ourselves an example to imitate.” (2 Thessalonians 3:8-9)

What Tithing means in Jesus Christ

“Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's.”

Luke 20:25

No one can keep the law perfectly (Galatians 3:11). The law was really intended to bring Israel to Christ, who has made us free from the law (Romans 8:2). “The law was our guardian until Christ came, in order that we might be justified by faith. But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a guardian” (Galatians 3:24-25).

Tithing is never commanded in the Bible except as part of the law of Moses for the nation of Israel. The law was good (Romans 7:11) and its principles still apply (see, for example, James 2:8); however, Christ is the end of the law to everyone with faith (Romans 10:4). We do not need to keep the detail of the law of tithing today. Everything has to be given to the glory of God (1 Corinthians 10:31)!

The New Testament never tells us to pay tithes. Even at a time when believers were asked to keep parts of the law, in order not to offend the Jews, tithing was not mentioned (Acts 15:5,28-29). Christ told his disciples to pay taxes to their rulers, but most importantly to dedicate everything to God (Luke 20:22-25).

More information

For more information, please don't hesitate to contact:

THE TRUTH ABOUT

SUMMARY

The tithe was a 10% tax on produce and livestock in the nation of Israel.

It was to provide for people who could not provide for themselves.

It was to teach Israel to be generous with what God gave them.

In Christ, we do not need to pay tithes or keep other parts of the law. We should dedicate everything we have to God!

Tithing

The **BIBLE**
EXHIBITION