

Welcome To Open Bible Hour

*Thank you for joining us on this
Lord's Day!*

*Our desire is that you may grow in the grace and
knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ as we pursue an in-
depth study of the book of Malachi.*

*If you have a prayer request, for which you would like
us to pray, please fill out a prayer sheet at the back
table and give to Lyle.*

Our website: OpenBibleHour.net

“WILL A MAN ROB GOD?”

Malachi 3:7-12

March 25, 2012

Mal 3:7-12

- 7 "From 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?'"
- 8 "Will a man rob God? Yet you are robbing Me! But you say, 'How have we robbed You?' In tithes and offerings.
- 9 "You are cursed with a curse, for you are robbing Me, the whole nation of you!"
- 10 "Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, so that there may be food in My house, and test Me now in this," says the Lord of hosts, "if I will not open for you the windows of heaven and pour out for you a blessing until it overflows.
- 11 "Then I will rebuke the devourer for you, so that it will not destroy the fruits of the ground; nor will your vine in the field cast its grapes," says the Lord of hosts.
- 12 "All the nations will call you blessed, for you shall be a delightful land," says the Lord of hosts.

Tithing

- All money given in the Bible falls into 2 categories – Required Payment or Voluntary Giving.
- The Tithe means a tenth.

Old Testament: Before the Law (Gen 1 – Ex.20)

Required Payment

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Voluntary Giving

Gen. 14:20 – Abraham gave a tenth of his victory spoils to Melchizedek.

Gen. 28:22 – Jacob gave a tenth to the Lord.

- These were not required or commanded by the Lord.
- Both of these instances are voluntary offerings and have nothing in common with the later legal tithe or tenth placed on the nation of Israel. Both men were following the custom of that time found not only in Palestine, but also Egypt and Mesopotamia of rendering a tenth to support a recognized priesthood. The taxation of that culture was always in tenths.

Old Testament: Law – Christ (Ex. 20 – Matt. 1)

Required Payment

The Tithe

Voluntary Giving

Tithing

- Tithing was required by the Mosaic Law as a means of supporting the theocracy (gov't) of Israel.
- The tithe for the nation of Israel was their means of taxation. It is not Israel's means of giving to the Lord.
- There were 3 types of tithes:
 1. A tithe (tenth) was required for the support of the tribe of Levi (Num. 18:21-24). The purpose of this tithe was to relieve the Priests of labor to make a living so that they might be able to study and teach the Word of God and conduct the activities of the Temple (Num. 18:26-28).
 2. A tithe (tenth) was required to finance and support the official feasts and sacrifices (Deut. 14:22-24; 12:17-19; 2 Chron. 31:5)
 3. A tithe (tenth) was required every third year to provide for the poor, widows, orphans, and Levites (Deut. 14:28,29; 26:12,13). It was like our Social Security Tax.

Summary

A tithe was required to support:

1. The Priests (gov't leaders) - **10%**
2. The official Feasts - **10%**
3. The underprivileged **3.3%**

Total Required - 23.3%

+ That which was left from the harvest was to be for the needy and the stranger (Lev. 19:9).

+ Temple Tax – 1/3 of a shekel – approx. \$200 (Neh. 10:32,33).

+ Sabbath rest of the land every 7th year for the poor and the animals (Ex. 23).

- The tithe was a fixed percentage. Though all people were not equal in their income, employment, and material possessions, the tithe-tax was fixed; all had the same 23.3%+ responsibility to the gov't of Israel.

Old Testament: Law – Christ (Ex. 20 – Matt.1)

Required Payment

The Tithe

Voluntary Giving

Ex. 35:20-29 – giving of material possessions .

Ex. 36:1-7 – giving of abilities and skills.

1 Chron 29:6-9 – money given for construction of the Temple.

2 Chron 35:8 – giving of animals for sacrifice.

Ezra 1:4-6 – money was given.

Ezra 2:68 – money was given.

Ezra 8:28 – gold and silver was given.

N.T. - Christ – Church (Matt 1 – Acts 2)

Required Payment

Matt. 17:24,25 – pay tax to Rome.

Matt. 22:15-22 – pay tax to Rome.

and the tithe to Israel.

Luke 11:42 – pay the required tithe.
to Israel.

Voluntary Giving

Matt. 22:21 – give to God.

Luke 6:38

38 "Give, and it will be given to you. They will pour into your lap a good measure — pressed down, shaken together, and running over. For by your standard of measure it will be measured to you in return."

N.T. - Church Age (Acts 2 – Rev. 22)

Required Payment

Voluntary Giving

Rom. 13:1-6 – pay your taxes.

1 Cor. 16:1,2

- **Heb. 7:1,2** – only reference to tithing after birth of the Church and it is a reference back to Gen. 14.

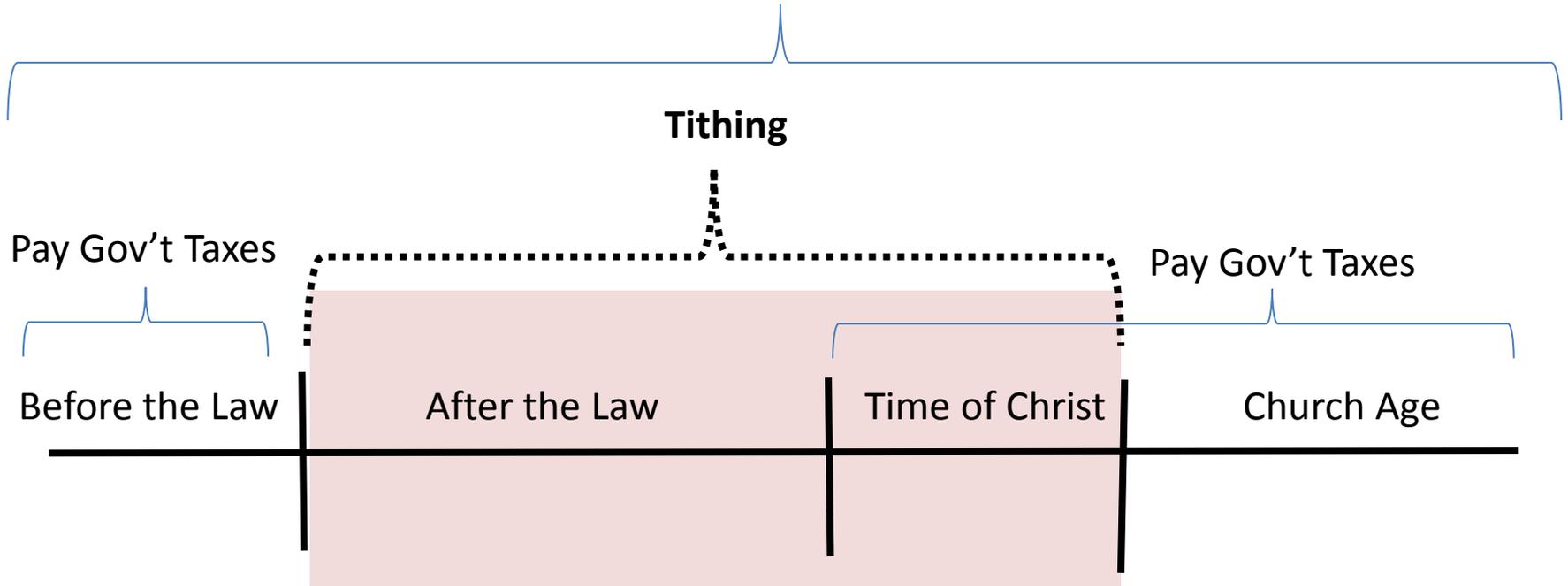
2 Cor. 9:6-11

Rom 13:6-7

6 For because of this you also pay taxes, for rulers are servants of God, devoting themselves to this very thing.

7 Render to all what is due them: tax to whom tax is due; custom to whom custom; fear to whom fear; honor to whom honor.

Voluntary Giving



Rom 12:8

8 he who gives, with liberality.

1 Cor 16:1,2

1 Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I directed the churches of Galatia, so do you also.

2 On the first day of every week each one of you is to put aside and save, as he may prosper, so that no collections be made when I come.

2 Cor 9:6-11

6 Now this I say, he who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully.

7 Each one must do just as he has purposed in his heart, not grudgingly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

8 And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that always having all sufficiency in everything, you may have an abundance for every good deed;

9 as it is written,

"HE SCATTERED ABROAD, HE GAVE TO THE POOR,
HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS ENDURES FOREVER."

10 Now He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness;

11 you will be enriched in everything for all liberality, which through us is producing thanksgiving to God.

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Application

1. Tithing under the Mosaic Law was a wonderful way for believers in Israel to be a “delightful land” for the world to see.
2. Believers in the church age have a responsibility through their giving to take care of the needs of the local church and beyond.
3. Governments whether a theocracy, democracy, dictatorship, or ??, need the financial support of their people to exist.
4. The writers of the epistles never use tithing when talking about giving to believers.
5. It is much more difficult to teach freedom/responsibility in giving than to teach tithing.
6. Giving in the church age is to be proportionate and not percentage.
7. Pay your taxes – give generously to God, He will abundantly bless.