



"And this is the commandment we have from Him, that the one who loves God should love his brother also." 1 John 4: 21

Sunday – December 10, 2023

Heart to Heart...

Many religions today urge or require their members to *"tithe."* Have you ever studied how Scriptures use this word and how it applies to us?

The word *"tithe"* literally means "ten, tenth." We find this idea first used in Genesis 14:20 where Melchizedek, King of Salem, blessed Abram and gave him a *"tenth"* of all. In Leviticus 27:30-33, the Jews were required by the Lord to give *"all the tithe of the land"* to the Lord. This idea of *"tithe"* was a requirement of those under the Law of Moses. It was 10 % of their prosperity.

When we come to the new covenant, there is not one single command for those in Christ Jesus to *"tithe"* and there are no examples of those in Christ *"tithing."* All examples of *"tithing"* were under the Law of Moses. It may surprise some to realize it is not part of our relationship to Jesus and His covenant. Look at how the religious world is affecting the teaching and doctrine they follow. We find that Christ Jesus mediates and is the mediator of the new covenant made by His blood and no longer bound to the old covenant (Hebrews 9:15-16).

Where does this leave us today? We are asked to give and be givers. The standard of teaching is based on this: ***"Each one must do just as he has purposed in his heart, not grudgingly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."*** (2 Corinthians 9:7) Did you pick up on the words 'not under compulsion?' Paul taught the preacher Timothy to instruct those who have wealth ***"to do good, to be rich in works, to be generous and ready to share."*** (1 Timothy 6:17-19) There was no amount set but only to purpose before God. The Macedonians were praised for their giving while in their deep poverty, beyond their ability they gave from a heart in their abundance of joy (2 Corinthians 8:1-5). These brethren had given themselves to the Lord first and foremost. This shows how much salvation from God affected them. These very poor brethren were rich in joy and the salvation they found in Jesus they wanted to give, to help. This is the attitude behind our giving.

The joy of salvation should make us joyful, even in difficulties. We want to share in God by helping others in whatever way we find. “*Tithing*” is not commanded and not a word we should use. But givers, that is who the saved are. One can give without loving but one can’t love without giving. Think about it!!!

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