

SPIRIT LED GIVING AND A GENEROUS HEART

As gentile believers what should we be doing?

Jesus made only one or two references to tithing in the Gospelsindicating that it was not a prevalent practice even among Jews. The Law applied until Jesus died.

Mat 23:23 ‘Woe to you Scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites for you pay tithe of mint, anise and cumin but you neglect the weightier matters of the **LAW**, justice and mercy and faith. These you ought to have done without leaving the others undone

Note The Scribes and Pharisee were **under the LAW**

Note Mint, anise and cumin were **produce of the field** and were required to be tithed **under the LAW**

Note These **ought YOU** to have done ie **under the LAW**

Note Jesus instructed those who were healed of leprosy (Mat 8:3) **‘to show yourself to the priest and offer the gift that Moses commanded’ because they were under the LAW (we don’t do that today either)**

Rom 6:14 **YOU ARE NOT UNDER THE LAW BUT UNDER GRACE**

1) WE NEED TO KNOW WHAT GODS WORD SAYS

There is NO pre-Mosaic principle of tithing in the Bible.....there are only two individual cases recorded out of all the people who lived in that period and none of them are in anyway near what is taught as tithing today (refer ‘TITHING’)

Malachi was a prophet who prophesied under the LAW...(Mal 2:4)...why is this scripture then used so frequently to coerce gentile christians into if tithing was a pre-Mosaic principle??

(Is 5:13 my people have gone into captivity for lack of knowledge)

Did you receive the Spirit by observing the Law or by believing what you heard?
(Gal 3:2)

All who rely on observing the Law (*ie including tithing*) are under a curse.....
(Gal 3:10)

Clearly no-one is justified before God by the Law (*ie including tithing*) because ‘the righteous will live by faith’ (Gal 3:11)

Heb 7:5 **Now the LAW requires descendants of Levi who become priests to collect a tenth** from the people (speaking of Jews)
We are all priests today see 1 Pet 2:5 and 9 'You are a royal priesthood'

Note It is the **LAW WHICH REQUIRES TITHING** not a pre-Mosaic principle

Rom 6:14 **YOU ARE NOT UNDER THE LAW BUT UNDER GRACE**

Gal 5:18 But if you are led by the Spirit **you are not under the LAW**

2) **WE NEED TO HEAR AND OBEY WHAT GODS SPIRIT SAYS**

Rom 8:14 because those who are led by the Spirit are the Sons of God

Give as you are led :-

if you love the Lord with all your heart and soul and mind and strength you will give generously to his kingdom (Mat 13:45-46 the kingdom of heaven is a fine pearl of great value – the merchant went and sold all he had and bought it)

if you love your neighbour as yourself you will give generously if he is in need (James 2:14-17)

This is best summed up by Paul in his second letter to the Corinthians

2 Cor 9: 6 Whoever sows sparingly will reap sparingly and whoever sows generously will reap generously (God is no mans debtor)

2 Cor 9: 7 Each man should give as he has **decided in his heart** to give, (ie Rom 8:14)

not reluctantly (this would indicate a heart problem ie 1 Jn 3:17)

nor under compulsion (ie under the Law ie tithing)

for God loves a cheerful giver

This all springs from the knowledge of how much God first loved us and that nothing we can give back could ever be enough

John 3:16 **'for God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life'**

(The "Zaccheus Principle" (Luke 19:5 -9)... When Jesus comes into a house, love of the world goes out and generosity becomes the way of life....without us even needing to be preached to)

3) SUPPORT FOR MINISTERS OF THE GOSPEL

While the apostle Paul continued to work as a tentmaker he did teach that ministers of the gospel had the right to be supported

1 Cor 9:3-12 Do not muzzle the ox

Who serves as a soldier at his own expense?

If we have sown spiritual seed among you is it too much that we should receive a material harvest from you?

1 Cor 9:14 Even so the Lord has ordained/commanded that those who preach the gospel should live from the gospel

Luke 10:7 The workman is worthy of his wages

Gal 6:6 He who receives instruction must share all good things with his instructor