



Good Cents

The Challenge

Pastor Mike | October 1, 2017

“Money doesn’t make decisions, you do!” –Dave Ramsey

If everything belongs to, comes from, and is distributed by God, then our objective or driving force should be to HONOR GOD with everything we manage while on this earth. LET’S JUST HONOR GOD!

Biblical generosity isn’t about giving the minimum. It’s about surrendering *all* to an all-powerful, all-loving God, a God who gave everything in His Son, Jesus Christ (John 3:16).

Proverbs 22:4 (ESV) *The reward for humility and fear of the Lord is riches and honor and life.*

Proverbs 3:9-10 (NIV) *Honor the LORD with your wealth, with the firstfruits of all your crops; then your barns will be filled to overflowing, and your vats will brim over with new wine.*

“Giving affirms Christ’s lordship. It dethrones me and exalts Him.” –Randy Alcorn

Three main types of giving in the Bible:

1. **Tithes:** 1/10 of our income
2. **Alms:** giving to the poor or any gift to meet a charitable need
3. **Offerings:** anything above and beyond the tithe

Genesis 14:18-20 (NKJV)

Then Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine; he was the priest of God Most High. And he blessed him and said: “Blessed be Abram of God Most High, Possessor of heaven and earth; And blessed be God Most High, Who has delivered your enemies into your hand.” And he gave him a tithe of all.

Genesis 28:22 (NKJV) *And this stone which I have set as a pillar shall be God’s house, and of all that You give me I will surely give a tenth to You.”*

Leviticus 27:30 (NKJV) *And all the tithe of the land, whether of the seed of the land or of the fruit of the tree, is the LORD’s. It is holy to the LORD.*

Deuteronomy 26:1-2 (NKJV) *“And it shall be, when you come into the land which the*

LORD your God is giving you as an inheritance, and you possess it and dwell in it, that you shall take some of the first of all the produce of the ground, which you shall bring from your land that the LORD your God is giving you, and put it in a basket and go to the place where the LORD your God chooses to make His name abide.”

Deuteronomy 26:13-15 (NKJV) *“...then you shall say before the LORD your God: ‘I have removed the holy tithe from my house, and also have given them to the Levite, the stranger, the fatherless, and the widow, according to all Your commandments which You have commanded me; I have not transgressed Your commandments, nor have I forgotten them. I have not eaten any of it when in mourning, nor have I removed any of it for an unclean use, nor given any of it for the dead. I have obeyed the voice of the LORD my God, and have done according to all that You have commanded me. Look down from Your holy habitation, from heaven, and bless Your people Israel and the land which You have given us, just as You swore to our fathers, “a land flowing with milk and honey.”*

Luke 11:42 (NLT) *“What sorrow awaits you Pharisees! For you are careful to tithe even the tiniest income from your herb gardens, but you ignore justice and the love of God. You should tithe, yes, but do not neglect the more important things.”*

Hebrews 7:8 (NKJV) *Here mortal men receive tithes, but there he receives them, of whom it is witnessed that he lives.*

Tithing is not giving. Tithing is returning. Tithing is a test. Tithing is Biblical. Tithing is a blessing.

2 Chronicles 31:4-10 (NKJV) *Moreover he (Hezekiah) commanded the people who dwelt in Jerusalem to contribute support for the priests and the Levites, that they might devote themselves to the Law of the LORD. As soon as the commandment was circulated, the children of Israel brought in abundance the first-fruits of grain and wine, oil and honey, and of all the produce of the field; and they brought in abundantly the tithe of everything. And the children of Israel and Judah, who dwelt in the cities of Judah, brought the tithe of oxen and sheep; also the tithe of holy things which were consecrated to the LORD their God they laid in heaps. In the third month they began laying them in heaps, and they finished in the seventh month. And when Hezekiah and the leaders came and saw the heaps, they blessed the LORD and His people Israel. Then Hezekiah questioned the priests and the Levites concerning the heaps. And Azariah the chief priest, from the house of Zadok, answered him and said, “Since the people began to bring the offerings into the house of the LORD, we have had enough to eat and have plenty left, for the LORD has blessed His people; and what is left is this great abundance.”*

THIS WEEK’S CHALLENGE

Begin to tithe and do it as a lifestyle.