

FREE YOUR MIND
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Are You Cursed If You Don't Tithe?

I have already shown how politics and psychology play a role in your finances. Now, I will venture into the very touchy subject of religion. As a matter of fact, religion (not spirituality) IS politics. The same way that the constitution gets manipulated for the sake of the establishment, so do the scriptures. In order for us to really be free, we need to READ on our own, because we can not trust what we are being told.

In order to be a student of scripture, at some point you have to study on your own (without looking at scriptures through the glasses of the preacher or teacher). You see, when you don't study scriptures on your own, you run into a couple of problems.

#1. Scriptures that may challenge religious traditions will often get left out of the normal rotation of scriptures that are studied (and everyone who has gone to church for a while knows that there is a specific rotation). Here is an example of what I mean.

Jer. 10:2-4

Ex. 20:4

Merry Christmas. And don't forget to put the Angel (from Heaven) on the tree this year.

But anyway...

#2. The Second Problem that you run into when you don't study the Bible on your own, is that the scriptures that DO get into the normal rotation often get taken out of context.

We've all heard, "Bring all the tithes into the storehouse" Some people hear it every Sunday. But what does this really mean? Let us explore.

What is a tithe?

Believe it or not, most people don't really know what a tithe is! The word Tithe simply means 1/10th. That is all it means. So the word Tithing (or Tenting) simply means to set aside a tenth. The word Tithe DOES NOT mean to GIVE a tenth of what you have. This may seem irrelevant, but in a minute you will see that it is not.

So how did tithing get started?

You see, in Genesis, God promised Abraham that his seed would inherit the Promised Land (Gen. 15:18). So the Israelite tribes, after being freed from Egypt, inherited the land. But not all of the tribes inherited the land. The Levite tribe inherited the tithe, instead of the land. Look at these verses. Deut. 10:8-9 & Num. 18:23-24. You see, the tithe was given to the Levites as a substitute for the inherited land. But this was given on one condition. That condition was that they serve and minister to their brethren. Now, this was not the only thing that the Levites and/or Levite priests inherited. Look at Numbers 35:1-8. You see, the Levites also inherited 2,000 cubits (about 3,000 feet) of pasture land and 48 cities! I'm glad that most preachers don't ask for all of that!

So how did the system of tithing work?

There is a good description in Deuteronomy. Look at Deut. 14:22-29. Also, look at Deut. 26:11-13. You see, this is how it worked. The people would tithe from the increase of their seed (FOOD) every year. Yes, they would share their tithe with the priests as they all ate the tithe in a place that was chosen by God. If they could not carry all of their tithes or if the place that God had chosen was too far away, they could exchange their tithe for money. Then they would take the money to the place God chose and buy whatever their hearts desired and eat before God. They were instructed not to neglect the Levites because they didn't have any inheritance. But in the THIRD year (which is called the year of tithing), the people would bring the full tithe of that year and give it, so that it could be stored within the gates for the Levites, the strangers, the motherless, the fatherless and the widows to eat. See also, Amos 4:4.

Questions to all my Tithers out there.

1. The tithe was never, ever, money! It may have been exchanged for money, but it was not money. [II Chron. 32:28, II Chron 31:5-6, Neh. 13:5) Do you bring food or money to your church?
2. The Israelites would consume their own tithes (1/10th of the food set aside), as they shared them with the Levites, at the place which God chose. Do you eat your tithe with the preacher? Do you spend your tithe with the preacher?
3. It was only in the THIRD year in which the Israelites were required to GIVE their tithes. How often does your pastor require you to give your full tithe for the church to keep?

Will you be exceedingly blessed if you tithe?

Malachi 3:10 clearly states, "Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the LORD of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it."

So this means you will be blessed right? Let's take another look at the phrase "open up the windows of heaven". Look at Genesis 7:11,12 and Genesis 8:2. Also, look at I Kings 8:35. You see, God wasn't promising blessings. He was promising RAIN! This is why

God continued in Malachi 3:11 by saying, “And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, and he shall not destroy the fruits of your ground; neither shall your vine cast her fruit before the time in the field, saith the LORD of hosts.” You see, the Israelites inheritance was conditional also. If they obeyed God’s commandments, He would continue to pour rain from the windows of heaven and their seeds would be blessed. If they disobeyed God’s commandments, he would shut up the windows of heaven and stop the rain, causing a drought.

Was the nation cursed for not tithing?

Malachi 3:8-9 clearly states, “Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee?” In tithes and offerings. Ye are cursed with a curse: for ye have robbed me, even this whole nation.”

Now the first thing one must ask of one’s self is this. Who was God talking to? Was he talking to the nation of people, or the priests?! Think of this. Why would God say, “even this whole nation”, if he were talking TO the nation?

But let’s backtrack. Look at Nehemiah 10: 37-39. This describes the process in which the Levites would collect the tithe from the Israelites. They would first take the tithe and then they would bring 1/10th of the tithes brought to them, up to the storehouse. In verse 39 it says that the children of Israel and the Levites would bring the tithes to the storehouse. So, my point is, whenever the bible says, “Bring tithes into the storehouse” it doesn’t necessarily mean the people. It could mean the Levites and/or priests.

So who was robbing God? Could it have been the priests? Well, it wouldn’t have been the first time. If you read Nehemiah 13:3-14, you’ll see what I mean. You see, a few priests were always put in charge of the storerooms. It was the job of those priests to distribute the tithe to all of the rest of the priests and Levites. In this case, the priest Eliashib was in charge. He was crooked, and he had formed a partnership with Tobiah. Tobiah was an Ammonite. The Ammonites were known for worshipping the pagan-god Molech, described in many verses in the bible (Lev. 18:21, Lev. 20:2-5, Jer. 32:35). Eliashib was letting Tobiah get some of the tithe that the priests’ should have been getting. So th...

OH MY GOODNESS! I almost forgot. The pagan-god Molech is still worshipped even to this day by some of the most prominent members of our society. It’s called the Bohemian Club. They worship Molech and do mock child sacrifice at a ceremony called Cremation of Care. This ceremony takes place at the Bohemian Grove in California. But I will let you look that up yourself. Some of the names of the people in this club may surprise you.

But anyway...

Eliashib was giving Tobiah some of the Levite priests' tithe, so the Levites had to go out into the fields and work in order to survive. More trustworthy priests had to be put in charge of the storeroom. This is an example of robbery by a priest.

Now, I would suggest that everyone read the entire book of Malachi, but I will highlight a few verses. Look at Malachi 1:6-7 & 2:1. You see ladies and gentlemen, this entire book is God's message to the priests! As a matter of fact God tells the priests specifically in Malachi 2:2, "If YE will not hear, and if YE will not lay it to heart, to give glory unto my name, saith the LORD of hosts, I will even send a curse upon YOU, and I will curse YOUR blessings: yea, I have cursed them already, because YE do not lay it to heart." God had ALREADY told the priests that the curse was because of their doing!

You see, this is very simple in my opinion. It was the priests who were robbing the tithe. God said to them, "YE have robbed me, even this whole nation." Even the nation was suffering under the curse due to the actions of the priests. So, God's message to the priests was this. Bring ALL the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in MY house. If you do this, I will then free the nation of the curse, by letting it rain and ending the drought.

Why would God be talking to the priest the entire book of Malachi, and then suddenly in chapter 3 and verse 8, start talking to everyone? And what does the word rob mean? Does it mean not to give what is owed? Or does it mean to take what has already been begotten? How did we reach a point where we read this and assumed that God was talking to the nation of people? Check some of the later translations of the Bible and you may see. So, why is our nation so broke? Maybe it's because the priests that are in charge of the storeroom are..... never mind. I won't go there.

Let me stop here to say this. I am not trying to bash churches or preachers. You have to understand that preachers go to school to become preachers. In most cases, they teach what they have been taught. So I believe that most preachers have good intentions.

When I entered the financial services business, I joined a company and was sold on a vision. I ran all over the place peddling products that were terrible. Why did I do this? Because I'm a low down, money grubbing mongrel? No, I was doing what I thought was right. But later on after research I found that I had been misled.

I will quote this though, "When an honestly mistaken man is confronted with the truth, he must either cease being mistaken, or stop being honest". Author unknown

Now, the last point I want to make about the tithe is a very obvious one, but for some reason, nobody notices it. The tithe was set up for the Israelites under the Mosaic law. All Christians should know what I am about to write by now. We are not under the Mosaic law anymore! Jesus fulfilled (or accomplished) the law, when he died on the cross! The old covenant was passed away and has been replaced with the new covenant (Luke 18:31-34, Luke 24:44, Acts 13:27-33). Now why would we pick one Mosaic Law (out of all of them) and just decide that we wanted to keep doing that one?

In the new covenant, Heaven is the promised land (our inheritance), we are all priests (1 Peter 2:5, 1 Peter 2:9, Rev 1:6), and we all are entitled to our share. Here is a description of the original church. Acts 4:32-37, Acts 2: 42-47. You see, in this church, there was no such thing as a person in church that was in need. People sold their possessions and divided them amongst everybody! Since they were all priests, they all got their cut. So the people that were in need were not giving, they were receiving!

Nowadays you have churches where the pastor drives a Royce and lives in a mansion, but if a person is struggling and asks for help, they often times can't get it. They are just told to "keep tithing" and you will be blessed. Sounds like politics to me. If you are in church and you are struggling, and you are being told to tithe, you have to realize that there is something wrong! Your church should be helping you!

Now at this point you may have come to the conclusion that in order for tithing (as we know it) to be valid, a whole lot of stretches have to be made.

1. Food would have to be transformed into money
2. Rain would have to be transformed into any type of blessings.
3. Preachers would have to waive their rights to 48 cities and 3,000 feet of pastured land.
4. Preachers would have to waive your rights to eat or spend your own tithe money
5. Giving of the tithe would have to be every year instead of every three years.
6. Everyone would now be an Israelite or Jew
7. The preachers would have to redistribute their tithe money evenly amongst all the other preachers (and you KNOW that aint gonna happen)
8. Jesus would have had to have gotten down from the cross and said, "I can't go through with this. Not because the pain is too great, but because all these people (who I have now declared descendants of Abraham), must continue to give 1/10th of their money (which they never gave) to a Church".

The point of this article is not to give people an excuse to give zero money to the Church. As I wrote before, the people of the church sold their possessions and divided them amongst members. I believe that they gave their entire **surplus**. I don't think they were out of house and home because in Luke in talks about people giving alms (charitable donations Luke 11:41).

What I'm saying is this. If you are living on the brink, paycheck to paycheck, almost bankrupt and you are giving 10% of your money to your church because you have been intimidated into believing that you are cursed if you don't, or blessed if you do, you are not being a good steward of your money. You are not being Godly. You are not giving of your own free will (II Cor. 9:7). You are being a bad steward and not taking care of home first!

Look through the illusion of the Tithe Matrix.

So how is the church supposed to finance itself if the people aren't tithing?

At first I wasn't going to address this subject, because I feel that it is irrelevant. I mean, after all, to coerce people into giving tithes and they sometimes can't afford to pay their house note (that THEY decided to get), is just wrong (and that is a nice way of putting it). But for those who are under the impression that "God's church" will go out of business as soon as they start teaching the TRUTH about the Bible they CLAIM to teach and live by, consider this.

Churches can always raise money. There are thousands of non profit organizations in the world that manage to survive without receiving 10% tax on.... Excuse me, I mean without receiving 10% of peoples incomes. There are always plenty people willing to donate to a good cause (whether it is a banquet, a marathon or a concert). Now for the mega churches out there (who in some cases bring in hundreds of millions of dollars a year (from tithes, tapes, seminars, mega events, and faith based initiatives), for some strange reason, I feel like they can survive. Churches have to manage their money too.

As the old song writer said, "The lord will make a way... somehow"

Until Next Time,

Free Your Mind,

Yours truly,

Matt Mason

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