

REMINDER

Volume XVI

July 18, 2010

Number 29



BEING OBEDIENT TO GOD IN ALL THINGS

In the Bible, God tells us that we are to give the first 10% of all he has entrusted to us back to Him. This is called **TITHING**. The word "tithe" means "a tenth part" or "10%". Giving less than 10% is not tithing.

WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A "TITHE" AND AN "OFFERING"?

A tithe is 10% of your income. An offering is any amount you give over and above that amount. An offering is anything you give in addition to your tithe, such as gifts for special projects, your church building fund, etc. Tithing is God's **minimum** standard, the **starting point**. As God prospers you, you'll want to give more.

WHY SHOULD I TITHE? 11 REASONS FROM GOD'S WORD -

AS A CHRISTIAN, I SHOULD TITHE -

- 1. BECAUSE GOD COMMANDS IT!** *"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 unto the LORD" (Lev. 27:30).*
- 2. BECAUSE JESUS COMMENDED IT!** *"Yes, you should tithe, and you shouldn't leave the more important things undone either" (Matt. 23:23).* Tithing was the only thing Jesus commended the Pharisees for doing!
- 3. BECAUSE TITHING SHOWS THAT GOD HAS FIRST PLACE IN MY LIFE!** *"The purpose of tithing is to teach you to put God first place in your life" (Deut. 14:23 LB).* If God does not have first priority in your finances, He isn't really first in your life.
- 4. BECAUSE IT REMINDS ME THAT EVERYTHING I HAVE WAS GIVEN TO ME BY GOD!** *"Always remember that it is the Lord your God who gives you the ability to produce wealth" (Deut. 8:18).* - Rather than feeling "I'm giving God 10% of my money", realize God is letting you keep 90% of HIS money. Without God's help, you would have nothing.
- 5. BECAUSE TITHING EXPRESSES MY GRATITUDE TO GOD FOR HELPING ME EARN INCOME!** *"How can I repay the Lord for all his goodness to me?" (Psalm 116:12).* Here's the answer: *"Each of you should bring a gift in proportion to the way the Lord your God has blessed you."* (Deut. 16:17).
- 6. BECAUSE REFUSING TO TITHE IS STEALING FROM GOD!** If you don't tithe, God says you are using money that rightfully belongs to Him. *"God says, 'Will a man rob God? Yet you are robbing me!' But you ask, 'How do we rob you?' God says 'In tithes and offerings. Bring your whole tithe to My house" Malachi 3:8-10.* - God has a right to whatever He asks for from you.
- 7. BECAUSE TITHING GIVES GOD A CHANCE TO PROVE TO YOU THAT HE EXISTS AND WANTS TO BLESS YOU!** *"Bring me your tithe. Test me in this', says the Lord, 'and see if I won't throw open the floodgates*

(continued inside)

of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it. I will prevent pests from devouring your crops and the vines in your fields will be protected from plagues" (Malachi 3:10-11).

This is one of the most amazing promises in the Bible. God actually offers you a challenge. He says, *"I dare you! Start tithing and watch what happens!"* He not only promises to bless you with more, but He also promises to protect what you already have! In the Bible, tithing is one of the best ways that you can prove God exists. Start tithing and get ready for God's blessing!

8. BECAUSE IT IS ESSENTIAL TO SPIRITUAL GROWTH! *"Just as you grow in everything - in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in earnestness and love. . . see that you also grow in the grace of giving" (see II Cor. 8:7-22).* Many Christians remain spiritual babies because they disobey God by not tithing.

9. BECAUSE TITHING SHOWS I REALLY LOVE GOD! *"Where your treasure is, your heart will be also" (Matt. 6:21).* Wherever you put your money is where your affection is going to be. Every time you give back to God you are drawn closer to Him. You may say you love God, but II Corinthians 8:8 says that your giving tests the sincerity of your love. You can give without loving but you cannot love without giving. Jesus said, *"If you really love me, do what I command." John 14:15.*

10. BECAUSE TITHING IS AN INVESTMENT FOR ETERNITY! Jesus told us to *"Store up treasures in heaven" (Matt. 6:19-20).* How do you do that? By investing your money in helping people get to heaven! Most of the things you spend your money on will not even last for ten years, much less for eternity.

11. BECAUSE YOU CANNOT OUTGIVE GOD! There are more promises in the Bible connected to giving than any other subject. Giving unlocks the promises of God in your life. When you give, God always gives back to you in greater degree. Jesus said, *"For if you give, you will get. Your gift will return to you in full and overflowing measure. Whatever measure you use to give it will be used to measure what is given back to you" (Luke 6:38).*

WHAT SHOULD I TITHE? The first 10% of every paycheck, and all else you earn. *"Honor the Lord by giving Him the first part of all your income, and He will fill your barns. . . to overflow" (Proverbs 3:9-10).* God doesn't want your "left-over" income at the end of the month. He wants first place.

WHERE SHOULD I GIVE MY TITHE? The Bible is very clear that God expects the tithe to be given back to Him at the place where you worship. In the Old Testament they brought their tithes to the Temple. In the New Testament the tithe was given at the synagogue or church. While there are many fine organizations, charities, and ministries, the church is God's institution. You may support other ministries with additional offerings. Only gifts given to God as an act of worship at the house of worship are considered tithes.

WHEN SHOULD I TITHE? I Corinthians 16:2 (LB) says, *"On the first day of every week, set aside some of what you have earned and give it as an offering. The amount depends on how much the Lord has helped you to earn."*

WHAT'S THE BEST WAY TO REMEMBER TO TITHE? To help in determining the tithe, buy a small ledger or record book. Every time you receive income, write it down. Assign 10% to Account No. 1 -- "Tithing". Then when you have given that amount you can record the check number. Most churches provide envelopes for tithers. Keep it in a prominent place on your desk as a weekly reminder. Many people write out four tithe checks when they pay their monthly bills and then give one check each week.

In order to teach your children the principles of tithing you should get offering envelopes for each child to use. Even preschoolers can bring their weekly offering to church. If your children are old enough to receive an allowance, they are old enough to learn to give the first 10% back to God.

ISN'T TITHING AN OLD TESTAMENT JEWISH LAW THAT I CAN IGNORE? No. That's just an old excuse with no Biblical basis. First, God established the principle of tithing, 430 years before He gave the Law to Moses. If tithing was only a Jewish law, why did Abraham tithe 430 years before the law was revealed? Tithing was being practiced long before the Jewish nation even existed!

Second, although tithing is mentioned in the Old Testament Law, there is no punishment mentioned for not tithing. Can you imagine a law without a punishment? Tithing is a Life Principle that is to be a voluntary act. Third, Jesus commended tithing in the New Testament.

SHOULD I TITHE ON MY NET INCOME OR GROSS INCOME? Which do you want God to bless - your net or your gross? Proverbs 3:9 says we are to honor God with the *first part* of all our income. Pray and let the Holy Spirit guide you whether to tithe on the gross or net.

WHAT IF I CAN'T AFFORD TO TITHE? You can't afford not to! God will get His tenth, one way or the other! If you are in debt, you need God's help to get out of debt. There are many financial principles in the Bible but the starting point is to be honest to God by beginning to tithe. Tell God you're going to put Him first in your finances, that you are willing to obey the principles in His Word, and you are trusting Him to help you get out of debt.

THE REAL ISSUE - Many offer what they think are good excuses for not tithing. But in every case, an unwillingness to do what God says can be boiled down to two motives:

First, materialistic values. If you're more interested in "having things" than pleasing God, you won't tithe. You may store up treasure on earth, but you won't store up treasure in heaven.

Second, unbelief. If you don't really believe God will keep all the promises He has made regarding tithing, you won't do it.

Why Don't You Bow Your Head and Pray This Prayer of Commitment:

"Father, I know you love me and want what's best for me. I recognize that all I have, or will ever have, comes from You. I am more interested in pleasing You than in having more possessions. I want You to have first place in my life and I am willing to begin tithing as You have commanded. Out of gratitude for all You've done for me, and in expectation that You will continue to provide for all my needs, I commit myself to returning at least 10% of all I earn back to You. I want to begin investing for eternity. Help me to remain faithful to this commitment. In Jesus' name, AMEN."



NEWS OF INTEREST TO CHRISTIANS

by Evangelist David W. Cloud

☛ **JERRY LEE LEWIS STILL PLAYS THE DEVIL'S MUSIC, THOUGH THE CHURCHES NOW CLAIM IT AS GOD'S MUSIC** - Jerry Lee Lewis was one of the fathers of rock & roll in the 1950's. Called "The Killer" and "Rock & Roll's First Great Wild Man," Jerry Lee, who was born in 1935, should have died long ago. He's gone on countless drug and alcohol-fueled binges, spent a half million dollars on Demerol, crashed cars, shouted obscenities at neighbors, stabbed one man in the neck, smashed another in the face with a broken whiskey bottle, even shot a friend in the chest with a .357 magnum handgun. He has been married six times (the third time to a 13-year-old cousin); two of his children died young; one wife drowned in their swimming pool and another died from a drug overdose.

When he was 16, his Pentecostal mother sent him to an Assemblies of God Bible Institute in Waxahachie, Texas, with the desire to see him train for the Lord's service. But though he preached a little, he was already deeply in love with the world.

After playing a boogie-woogie version of "My God Is Real" at a morning assembly, Jerry Lee was expelled for delving in "worldly" music. Years later Peary Green, who was president of the student body when Lewis was kicked out, asked The Killer, "Are you still playing the devil's music." Lewis replied, "**Yes, I am. But you know it is strange, the same music that they kicked me out of school for is the same kind of music they play in their churches today. The difference is, I know I am playing for the devil and they don't**" (JerryLeeLewis.com). Nick Tosches, Lewis's biographer, observed that "if you took the words away, there were more than a few Pentecostal hymns that would not

sound foreign coming from the nickel machine in the wildest juke joint" (Hellfire, p. 57).

The same can be said about the Contemporary Christian Music that has permeated every denomination today. One credit that must be given to Jerry Lee Lewis is that he is not a hypocrite, claiming to be a Christian on one hand while living for the flesh on the other. No, Jerry Lee has lived all out for the devil, and he is right about rock & roll being the devil's music. It always has been and always will be, and those who are using it in the service of a holy God are deceived by their love for sensuality and their carnal desire to get a larger crowd and have a larger following. Those who stand against CCM have become the minority over the past three decades, but they are right. Those who follow the popular path in this apostate age will be wrong every time.

☛ **UNITED METHODIST SEMINARY PRESIDENT SAYS CHRISTIANS SHOULDN'T EVANGELIZE**

Jerry Campbell, President of Claremont School of Theology, says Christians should not evangelize people of other faiths. "The correct perception [of following Jesus] is much more on the side of learning to express love for God and love for your neighbor as yourself" (United Methodist Reporter, July 2, 2010). Claremont, which is affiliated with the United Methodist Church, is preparing to become an "interreligious institution" that will provide training for Muslims, Jews, Buddhists, and Hindus. The new multi-faith venture was approved by the United Methodist Church's University Senate. To say that following Jesus does not involve preaching the gospel to other religions is ridiculous and unscriptural. The way to love God is to obey His Word, which commands us to preach the gospel to every creature (Mark 16:15), and the best way to love our neighbors is to tell them the Good News of eternal salvation through the shed blood of Christ. The unbelief that is rampant in the mainline Protestant denominations is a fulfillment of Bible prophecy and is irrefutable evidence of its divine inspiration. "But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction" (2 Peter 2:1).

☛ **ANOTHER GOSPEL ARTIST OUT OF THE CLOSET**

Anthony Williams, who performs under the name of **Tonex** and whose album **Out the Box** was nominated for a Grammy, revealed several months ago that he is a homosexual. In a recent interview he complains about being discriminated against and compared the discrimination against homosexuals to racism.

The interviewer states, "**These days, when he is not singing for his fans as Tonex, Pastor Williams travels across the country preaching a message of acceptance. Now his audience is a congregation and his stage a pulpit**" ("Openly Gay Gospel Artist Preaches Acceptance," thegrio.com, July 7, 2010). Williams joins a growing list of "out of the closet" Gospel and CCM performers, including Douglas Harrison, James Cleveland, Marsha Stevens, Kirk Talley, Clay Aiken, and Jennifer Knapp. ■

NURSERY MINISTRY WORKERS FOR THIS WEEK

10:50 a.m. Service ----- Cradle Roll 1: Charity Crawford
 Cradle Roll 2: Brian Crawford
 6:30 p.m. Service ----- Cradle Roll 1: Kristi Hooper
 Cradle Roll 2: Kelsey & Andrea
 Wed. Eve. Service ----- Volunteers Needed!!!

AND THE PEOPLE CAME...

Week of July 11, 2010

Sunday School ----- 18
 Sunday Morning Service ----- 36
 Sunday Evening Service ----- 34
 Wed. Eve. Service, 07/14/10 ----- 25

AND THE PEOPLE GAVE...

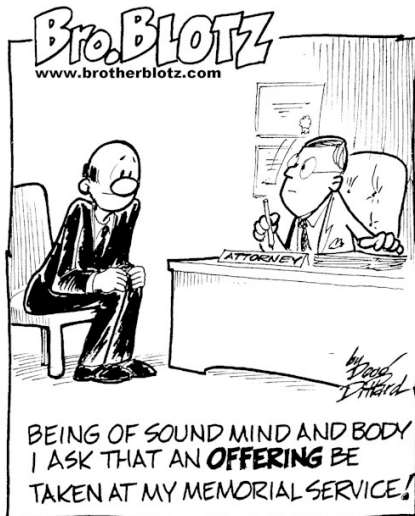
Week of July 11, 2009

Undesignated Tithes & Offerings ----- \$ 1,048.00
 Insurance Fund ----- \$ 73.00
Total Received for Week of 07/11/10: \$ 1,121.00

Average amount of Undesignated Offerings needed to operate the church EACH WEEK, as a minimum = \$ 1,400.00

INSURANCE FUND REPORT -

Monthly Requirement ----- \$ 273.08
 Amount Received This Month ----- \$ 104.00
Amount Needed Before The End Of This Month: \$ 169.08



WHAT IT MEANS TO BE SAVED

1. **Admit that you are a sinner.**
2. **Admit that God says all sins must be paid for.**
3. **Accept the fact that Christ took upon Himself the suffering necessary to pay for all your sins.**
4. **You must change your mind about sin and sinning (God calls this repentance).**
5. **By an act of your will, accept by faith the Lord Jesus Christ, who can save you from the penalty of sin. Then, tell God about this in a simple prayer. Believe that God keeps His promise to save you, and thank Him for His salvation.**

Please Remember To Be Faithful to Give!



As with everything else, the costs of keeping a church going never go down - they always go **up**. Bills wait for no one, and churches are no exception to this. An extra, sacrificial gift today by everyone present would go a long way...

We encourage all of our membership to practice obedience to God by being faithful every payday to give back to Him His tithe (10%). *If every family in our church would practice this one simple discipline, we would never have weeks where we have to put off paying some bills until the following week!*

Everything is expensive, especially for a small church like ours, but ours is a BIG God, and He LOVES to bless His children when they are obedient to Him!

If you are already a tither, we thank you, and encourage you to also give offerings as well. If you're currently not tithing, won't you please start **today - OK?** Thank you.

Church Directory

Todd W. White ----- Pastor
 Mickie Shatwell ----- Pianist
 Dickie Eberle ----- Greeter, Custodian
 Larry Mathews, Caryn Quinnelly, Todd W. White ----- S.S. Teachers
 Larry & Mary Byars, Brian & Charity Crawford,
 Dwayne English ----- Outreach
 Flowers ----- Hannah and Shirley White