

Tithes and Offerings

IV. TITHES AND OFFERINGS IN THIS AGE.

There is no specific New Testament law that authorizes tithing today. In fact, tithing is mentioned only two times in the New Testament. It then concerned the Jews. However, it is said that there then (in the Old Testament days) existed not even so much as one heathen religion that did not have the concept that every man should pay a tithe of at least one-tenth to his god. Of this Hobbs says:

“Among ancient peoples were some who did not practice blood sacrifice, but there were none who did not practice the tithe as the basis of giving to their gods . . . The survival of this practice among all ancient peoples, plus the Biblical record, would indicate a common denominator which God set forth in the beginning. As he hollowed one day out of seven, so did he make holy unto himself one tenth of the whole as a reminder of his creative work and continuing ownership. Therefore, when Moses included the tithe in his law, and when the prophets thundered the law of the tithe, they were not simply following Levitical regulations to provide their own needs, but were going down to the bedrock of man's relationship to God and his universe. The tithe was not the law of the Levites to finance the temple; it was God's law for the spiritual beneficence of man” (Hobbs, “The Gospel of Giving,” pp. 13, 14).

It is the writer's personal opinion that the principle of the tithe (giving of one-tenth) was so universally accepted and approved in the days of our Lord that it did not need to be argued as a principle of giving in worship. There is sanction of the principle of tithing in the New Testament and never did our Lord or His disciples present any other plan as a means of financing His church. It is therefore reasonable that just as instrumental music was sanctioned as a means of New Testament worship, though not specifically named, even so the principle of tithing, as a plan for financing the Lord's work and acknowledging God's ownership over all, was also the sanctified and intended plan, though not specifically commanded.

(Bible Analysis or (How to Understand the Bible) by Albert Garner, Lakeland, Florida: Florida Baptist Institute and Seminary, 1960, 143-144, Text Modified)