

The Bible & Money ... The New Covenant Doctrine of Giving: Does tithing apply to Christians?

1) Passages Directly Referencing the “tithing” in the New Testament

Two Conclusions:

1) None of the passages have tithing as their _____ subject

2) None of the passages _____ tithing for Christians

* _____ tithing and _____ tithing are **not** the same thing

a) Matthew 23:23 (see also Luke 11:42)

a. Jesus never _____ the act of tithing

b. Jesus considered tithing to be a _____ central aspect of the Mosaic Law

c. However, tithing was _____ part of the Mosaic Law

d. The main point of Matthew 23:23 is that justice, mercy, and faithfulness are _____, basic _____ to God in the Old Testament (see Micah 6:8; Zechariah 7:8–10)

e. The command of this verse was meant for the _____ and the _____.

i. Two Examples

1. Jesus celebrated _____; Christians do not have to

2. Matthew 8:1–4; these commands are not prescribed for Christians

f. To advocate tithing based upon Jesus’ endorsement of it to the scribes and Pharisees is endorsing [at least] a _____ percent contribution, not ten percent

g. The Implications of Using Matthew 23:23

i. Christians must give at least 20%

ii. This includes items from a garden

iii. To tithe correctly you would have to live in Palestine (Israel)

b) Luke 18:9–14

a. Hermeneutics and Parables

- i. One main _____ for every major _____
- ii. This parable has two main characters:
_____ and the _____
- iii. The main points: He who exalts himself will be humbled and he who humbles himself will be exalted

c) Hebrews 7:1–10

a. Only **build** doctrine on primary meanings

b. Hebrews 7:1–10 in context

- i. Hebrews is arguing that Jesus' sacrifice is superior to those in the Old Covenant, so don't turn back to your _____
 1. Jesus is demonstrated as superior to the angels, even though he was temporarily made lower
 2. He was temporarily made lower so his priesthood could be made superior to the Levitical priesthood
 3. Jesus' priesthood is then shown to be greater than Aaron's based on election
 4. Then, Melchizedek's priesthood is shown as greater than the Levitical priesthood
 5. Then, Jesus' priesthood is declared to be of the same kind as that of Melchizedek
 6. Since Melchizedek's is greater than the Levitical priesthood, so is Jesus' priesthood.

Of what part is Hebrews 7:1–10? Number ___ above.

c. Three proofs on Melchizedek's superiority

- i. Hebrews 7:4: Melchizedek is _____ than Abraham because Abraham _____ him an offering
- ii. Hebrews 7:7: Melchizedek is greater because he _____ Abraham
- iii. Hebrews 7:8: Abraham's descendants paid tithes to priests who would _____, Abraham paid his tithe to a priest who _____: Melchizedek

- d. Since Melchizedek was able to perform the functions of a _____ without being in the Levitical lineage, Jesus, likewise, is also able to be a priest _____ the necessary lineage
- e. The one theological truth the author was intending: Melchizedek was _____ than Abraham and thus _____ than the Levitical priests
- f. The Argument from Hebrews 7:8 is problematic because the phrase _____ and the word _____ does not occur in the Greek.
 - i. Who is the implied “he”? _____
- g. Some argue _____ tithing based upon Hebrews 7:12

2) The “Concept” of Tithing in the New Testament

Many have been suggested:

Matthew 22:17–22

1 Corinthians 9:13–14

1 Corinthians 16:1–4

2 Corinthians 8:8

2 Corinthians 9:7

- a) 1 Corinthians 9:13–14
 - a. Paul’s main point is in verse 4: Do we not have a _____ to eat and drink?
 - i. “eat and drink” refers to _____
 - b. The Context: 1 Corinthians 8 is about food sacrificed to _____
 - c. The overall context is that of _____
 - d. Refutation
 - i. Paul’s teaching in this chapter is not _____ with tithing as discussed in the Mosaic law
 - ii. Paul does not refer to this support as a _____ of the people in all circumstances
 - iii. Instead, Paul says that he has the _____ to receive support; if he forgoes that right, they are not _____ to give it

- iv. Therefore, tithing would become optional depending on if the preacher wanted to _____ it
- v. This is completely at odds with an understanding of tithing in the _____ Testament
- vi. In the Mosaic law, not paying tithes was equivalent to _____ God; it was not an _____

SUMMARY

- 1) No text in the New Testament commands Christians to tithe
- 2) All direct references to tithing in the New Testament were incidental
- 3) No passage contains the concept of tithing and thus implies that Christians should tithe

MORE INFORMATION

EMAIL:

dacroteau@earthlink.net

WEBSITES:

- 1) groups.yahoo.com/group/Tithing-Study
 - Chat room on tithing
 - Good resource, but I do not ascribe to all views posted
- 2) slaveoftheword.blogspot.com
 - Blog I started this year
 - Starting to include some more historical discussions on tithing