

**Presentation to 100 Huntley Street  
March 9: Tithing and the Mosaic Law**

**Y**ears ago God asked Abraham to surrender Isaac, “his only son whom he loved,” and Abraham released Him to God. Today, Jesus is asking His followers to surrender money, belongings, and every area of our lives to Him.

Jesus wants us in a personal relationship where we place all money and belongings at His disposal and then follow His direction to use them. This is the only way to be God’s effective stewards.

Sadly, many folks withhold parts of their lives. They live in at least two compartments: One where they alone decide how to use God’s 90%, the other where they give Him a tithe or a mere 10%. Actually, in Canada and the USA, the average is around 2%. But it doesn’t end there because most times when they give God mechanically this 10% or less, **which is less than an acceptable tip**, they ask Him for something in return, which merely reinforces the selfish lifestyle we practice in North America. That’s why I define tithing as:

**Tithing is a guilt relieving way to spend God’s 90% without His approval.**

Let’s look at what the Bible teaches about tithing.

The Levites were the only Tribe of Israel God didn’t give a specific geographical area; God said they would have no inheritance. Rather, He assigned only them to work in the tabernacle. From this group, He chose Aaron and his sons as priests.

To provide for the Levites, including the priests, the poor, widows, and orphans, and to teach Israel to celebrate, commune with and revere Him, God introduced three tithes.

**The Levitical tithe** in Numbers 18:21-32 called for all tribes except the Levites to give one tenth of their **agricultural crops and livestock** to the Levites who had to tithe from their tenth. Numbers 18:24 says:

**... I give to the Levites as their inheritance the tithes that the Israelites present as an offering to the LORD. That is why I said concerning them: ‘They will have no inheritance among the Israelites.’”**

**Deuteronomy 14:22-27** shows the **Festive tithe** of agricultural produce and livestock only. Donors consumed it in God’s presence in the Tabernacle, to worship Him, to celebrate with Him and the community, and to learn to fear or revere Him.

**The Poor tithe** recorded in **Deuteronomy 14:28-29** of agricultural produce only, was **once every three years** specifically for the Levites, foreigners, widows, and orphans.

Here is a recap of these tithes that were specific to Israel and dealt with Israel’s particular religious and social arrangements at the time:

- 1. The Levitical Tithe (10%) - Numbers 18:21-32**
- 2. The Festive Tithe (10%) - Deuteronomy 14:22-27**
- 3. The Poor Tithe (10% every 3 years or 3.3% each year) - Deuteronomy 14:28-29**

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Eleven tribes of Israel were to pay three **tithes totaling 23.3%**, yes, 23.3%, while the Levites tithed from their tithe.

Psalm 24:1-2 and other verses show God owns 100% of everything we possess, so we are mere stewards. But we behave as if we own everything.

Have you wondered why many Christians have difficulty with money matters? One reason is many Christians adopt the tithing mind-set that gives God 10% or less, and then spend 90% or more without consulting Jesus.

Mull over these two questions:

- 1. What are you doing with God's 90%?**
- 2. Do you know how many people will die today and go to hell because they don't know Jesus?**

Let's become radical. Let Jesus control all His finances, not just the crumbs! Check the Bible references I have given you; ask Jesus to break your heart for the lost.

I close with this question:

**Today, if you got \$ 1000 you didn't expect, how would you allocate it?**

Next time we discuss **grace giving**. God bless and remember Jesus loves you.