

THE TRUTH ABOUT THE TITHE

INTRODUCTION

In recent years there has been a tremendous refreshing by the release and outpouring of the Holy Spirit and His power in the various organised church groupings and fellowships.

However, in some ways, the old rules seem to have been replaced - perhaps not intentionally - by a new list of do's and don'ts that in actual fact are not new at all.

In dealing with the subject of the tithe we would urge that you read all of this booklet before reaching a conclusion on the subject. On the one hand we will endeavour to reveal from scripture the error that is prevalent in the church today - and then show how this can be replaced by a positive outworking.

So many in the body of Christ are now tithing and are assured that mighty and wonderful benefits will follow their obedience in this. God has graciously given us (and many others) a revelation, which shows us that this cannot be the case. Christians can't make tithing work and many are in all kinds of debt.

Please read the following pages with a truly open mind and ask the Lord Holy Spirit to guide you into ALL truth as you read. We pray that every reader will receive a revelation as to what Father God says about this subject in the Bible and as a result, will come into God's true prosperity.

All praise and glory be to Almighty God.

If you would like to know more, we can be contacted at the address, telephone number or e-mail address below:

Frank & Olive Perry
Resurrection Life Ministry
4 Bleakwood Road
Walderslade
Chatham
Kent ME5 0NF England

Tel: +44 (0) 1634 302649
e-mail: frankoliveperry@blueyonder.co.uk

us working out our cash – right down to the last penny?
No! No! No!

Everyone knows you can't put kisses in a cardboard box -
but that's what Father God wants from us, His children, our love.

He wants us to have the heart of a child in our attitude to Him – in our response to Him. Tithing has been superseded by giving - only our hearts will do - and our obedience in how He wishes us to give what He has provided for us.

We would like to encourage all in the body of Christ to give liberally and generously as Father directs.

All He wants us to do is to say, in whatever way we can:

“I LOVE YOU DADDY”.

* * *

Anyone who feels upset, or even cross, about what they have just read needs to ask themselves ‘why?’ They will still be giving - just not working out 10% and calling it a tithe. They will be free from the curse of tithing, by giving the way God wants them to. They will be back under the New Covenant with Jesus and giving joyfully. Surely there is nothing to be upset about and everything to be joyful about.

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* All scripture quotes are taken from the NKJV unless otherwise stated.

CHAPTER 1

FREEDOM

An international speaker once told me that a Pastor's wife had said to him "Anyone who doesn't tithe is under a curse". Although he did not agree with her, he did not want to argue with her, so he said nothing. Is this a reflection of the way others would have responded?

It seems there are many who are made to feel they would be condemned or would lose all their blessings if they stopped tithing or if they tithed into any ministry other than their own church. One fellowship (who shall be nameless) reached the point where they read out the names of all those who had not tithed that month! Does that sound very loving to you? Another well-known Pastor preaches that unless you tithe you lose your salvation: it doesn't say that in my Bible!

Galatians 5 v 1 says **STAND FAST THEREFORE IN THE LIBERTY BY WHICH CHRIST MADE US FREE, AND DO NOT BE ENTANGLED AGAIN WITH A YOKE OF BONDAGE.** The sayings of our Lord are so plain; there is nothing hidden or enigmatic. We are free!

In our experience, almost always when tithing is being preached the reading is Malachi 3 v 8-10. **WILL A MAN ROB GOD? YET YOU HAVE ROBBED ME! BUT YOU SAY, "IN WHAT WAY HAVE WE ROBBED YOU"?** IN TITHES AND OFFERINGS. YOU ARE CURSED WITH A CURSE, FOR YOU HAVE ROBBED

Praise God we are not under all that – we have a new covenant, a covenant of love and grace wherein Jesus keeps all the Law for us - in fact He is the end of the Law (Rom 10 v 4).

Talking of grace: a dear old Christian lady once had a real problem with God's grace extending to a multi-murderer: how could a multi-murderer like Hitler have more grace available to him than all of **his** sin? Well, it was a multi-murderer who wrote the hymn "Amazing Grace". Our Father's grace never ceases to amaze us.

What a magnificent and amazingly blessed position we are in. We are in fact in the place of "more than you could possibly ask or think"! Is it any wonder that we want to give something back? Anything you or I could give is worthless in comparison with what He has given us. Fortunately, **He does not look at what we give, but at our hearts.**

There was once a little 3-year old girl who was trying to wrap up a present for her daddy for Christmas. She was "wasting" a lot of expensive wrapping paper and her Daddy told her off and made her cry – until she told him the present was for him.

On Christmas morning he opened the present from her and found it was just an empty box and he asked, somewhat crossly, why she had bothered to wrap up an empty box for him. With tears in her eyes, she told him that she had filled the box with kisses for him – one for every day of the year!

Does our loving Father want our money? Does He want

CHAPTER 5

SONS OF GOD DON'T PAY

Surely it's Dad's best for us to be the sons that He intends us to be. When Jesus was aware that Peter had lied to the tax man to protect Jesus's reputation, His statement to Peter was very revealing: Matt 17 v 25. Jesus said "WHAT DO YOU THINK SIMON? FROM WHOM DO THE KINGS OF THE EARTH TAKE CUSTOMS OR TAXES, FROM THEIR SONS OR FROM STRANGERS?" PETER SAID TO HIM "FROM STRANGERS". JESUS SAID TO HIM "THEN THE SONS ARE FREE".

Jesus lays it out very clearly here. Read it again – nothing about tithing. Absolutely nothing about the sons of the King having to pay anything at all.

Remember Galatians 3 v 13 says CHRIST HAS REDEEMED US FROM THE CURSE OF THE LAW. This is total freedom from everything that would be to our detriment: free from sin, free from death, free from sickness, free from condemnation, free from doubt, free from guilt, free from fear, free from judgement – and from all the Law, and the prophets too. (That includes the prophet Malachi.)

In the light of all these scriptures we can't imagine how anyone would want to creep back into that old covenant. That old covenant said: if **you** keep **your** side of it (keep all the Law) then **I** (God) will keep **My** side of it.

ME, EVEN THIS WHOLE NATION. BRING ALL THE TITHES INTO THE STOREHOUSE, THAT THERE MAY BE FOOD IN MY HOUSE, AND TRY ME NOW IN THIS, SAYS THE LORD OF HOSTS, IF I WILL NOT OPEN FOR YOU THE WINDOWS OF HEAVEN AND POUR OUT FOR YOU SUCH BLESSING THAT THERE WILL NOT BE ROOM ENOUGH TO RECEIVE IT.

Got it? The tithe is food! It was to feed the Levites because, having been made priests, they had no ground to grow their food, so the other tribes had to tithe a tenth of their crops to feed the Levites. That is the first tithe. Only the Levites can receive the tithe.

The book of Malachi was addressed to the Levites of Israel, not the Christian church! Even the Rabbis in Israel today know that they cannot receive the tithe unless they are from the tribe of Levi.

According to Nehemiah 10 starting at verse 37, the Levites also need to have a descendant of Aaron the High Priest with them when they receive the tithe. The Levites then had to tithe a tenth of those tithes to the House of the Lord.

"... AND TO BRING THE TITHES OF OUR LAND TO THE LEVITES, FOR THE LEVITES SHOULD RECEIVE THE TITHES IN ALL OUR FARMING COMMUNITIES. AND THE PRIEST, THE DESCENDANT OF AARON, SHALL BE WITH THE LEVITES WHEN THE LEVITES RECEIVE TITHES; AND THE LEVITES SHALL BRING UP A TENTH OF THE TITHES TO THE HOUSE OF OUR GOD, TO THE ROOMS OF

THE STOREHOUSE.”

What would happen if Christians put different kinds of grain, fruit or meat in the offering?! Even if the tithe were money, the Bible makes it very clear that no pastor, evangelist, teacher, apostle, or any Christian can receive the tithe.

It is totally out of order for any Christian to presume he is a Levite by taking 10% of his income and giving it to someone who is not a High Priest from the line of Aaron. Even Jesus himself could not receive the tithe, neither did he ever pay one because sons don't pay. (See page 24.)

In Malachi 3, it was the **Levites** who were robbing God by not taking a tenth of their tithes into the House of the Lord.

Mal 3 v 7 says “YOU HAVE GONE AWAY FROM MY LAWS”. This was said to the Jews; **they** were supposed to try and keep the Law - but it DOES NOT APPLY TO BORN AGAIN CHRISTIANS. The Bible is a book written by Jews, about Jews, for Jews. The Gentiles are only grafted in spiritually under the New Covenant, when they accept Jesus the Messiah as their Saviour and Lord! **The Old Testament law has nothing to do with Gentiles.**

It is so wrong that Christians are made to feel guilty about something that is clearly Law-keeping - we are living under the New Covenant where Jesus keeps the Law for us. We, as born-again Christians are set free from the Law by our Lord Jesus Christ, and the Bible says “He who the Son sets free is free indeed” (John 8 v 36) - and yet many Christians are made to feel condemned if they don't tithe.

It is appropriate here to share with you the testimonies of two housewives. One read a book by Cliff Richard and she told her friend next door. She said “I've prayed the prayer at the end of this book and I think I've become a Christian”. So her friend read the book and she also said the prayer. Then they started reading the Bible together and they noticed that it says you can ask for anything, literally anything.

One was just over £600 in debt and the other was over £7,000 in debt and was about to lose her house. So they decided to pray for £600 for the first lady – and a cheque for the **exact amount** arrived in the post the next day!

The larger debt took a little longer but a wealthy man at an FGB meeting heard about it and just wrote a cheque for the whole amount. *Neither of these ladies tithed.*

It is a case of coming to the throne of grace for our need, in simple faith like these two new Christians. After that, it is a case of being good stewards with what He has given us.

When we offer prayer for people who are in debt because of tithing, we worry about starting a stampede! It is a huge problem among Christians and we are so aware that **our Father wants His children to be debt-free.**

It would seem to be dishonouring to the Lord for born-again Christians to be in debt to the world's systems. We have to take a responsible attitude to all of this and make a quality decision to get to a place as quickly as possible where we are debt free, and stay there.

If anyone who has been tithing has now come into the revelation that it estranges them from Christ, the answer is simple: repent and ask God's forgiveness. Immediately that person will come back into blessing and, we believe, will be amazed at the difference it makes in their life.

We have heard so many wonderful testimonies from Christians who have come out from under the bondage of tithing and have received miraculous blessings from God. A man told us that now he is set free from the curse of the tithe, his giving has once again become the real joy it was before he started tithing, and the Lord has blessed him in many other ways too, particularly in his job.

A lady told us "It's amazing - when I was tithing everybody was demanding money from me but since I've stopped tithing and started sowing instead, I've reaped so much and been so blessed financially."

The people in one church where tithing is strongly taught were asked "Who needs a financial break-through?" - and it seemed that every hand went up. Surely this would not be - if tithing really does bring blessing and prosperity?

So out of a sense of duty (or sometimes guilt); out of a fear of getting it wrong or of failing the Lord, the poor Christian works out 10% of his gross wage and pays it dutifully into the offering bag each week, believing that this will cause God to bless him.

How can God bless something that goes so against scripture? Why is it that generally, Christians don't seem to check in scripture what is preached to them? Born-again Christians are **already** blessed with EVERY spiritual blessing in Christ Jesus - without tithing. We have good health because "by His stripes (wounds) we are healed" - without tithing. He has given us His holiness, His righteousness, His peace, His prosperity, His glory - all without tithing - because He loves us SO much.

We have heard preachers say "Welcome to the house of the Lord". The people are the house of the Lord Jesus Christ, not the buildings: buildings can never be anything but a place for the church to meet in.

Some say that the church building is the storehouse. It is preached that Christians should all take their tithes and offerings to the church and nowhere else, thus quenching the Holy Spirit from telling us where He would like us to give. If we as Christians want to give, surely we should ask God to show us (a) to whom, (b) how much to give, and (c) when to give it. **He wants us all to give, generously and with much enjoyment.**

Now follows something of what the Old Testament (the old covenant) says about tithing:

Deut 14 v 22 & 23 says YOU SHALL TRULY TITHE

ALL THE INCREASE OF YOUR GRAIN THAT THE FIELD PRODUCES YEAR BY YEAR. AND YOU SHALL EAT BEFORE THE LORD YOUR GOD, IN THE PLACE WHERE HE CHOOSES TO MAKE HIS NAME ABIDE, THE TITHE OF YOUR GRAIN AND YOUR NEW WINE AND YOUR OIL, OF THE FIRST-BORN OF YOUR HERDS AND FLOCKS, THAT YOU MAY LEARN TO FEAR THE LORD YOUR GOD ALWAYS.

Verse 26 says YOU SHALL SPEND THAT MONEY ON WHATEVER YOUR HEART DESIRES. FOR OXEN OR SHEEP, FOR WINE OR SIMILAR DRINK, FOR WHATEVER YOUR HEART DESIRES; YOU SHALL EAT THERE BEFORE THE LORD YOUR GOD, AND YOU SHALL REJOICE, YOU AND YOUR HOUSEHOLD.

IF we were Jews living under the old Covenant, it would be party time! Who realises the Bible says the Jews were to have a party with the tithe?!! That is the second tithe. In all my years in meetings and fellowships all over the world I have never heard anyone preach tithing out of those verses.

If tithing is taught where you meet, let's see what the Old Testament says should happen to it in the third year? Deut 14 v 28 says that it should be given to the Levite, (whoever he might be these days) the widow, the stranger and the fatherless.

AT THE END OF EVERY THIRD YEAR YOU SHALL BRING OUT THE TITHE OF YOUR PRODUCE OF THAT YEAR AND STORE IT UP WITHIN YOUR

CHAPTER 4

DEBT FREE

If following the law estranges us from Christ, and we have seen that scripture clearly says it does, then it is tantamount to an insult to Jesus (when you consider what He went through to give us the new Covenant) if we choose to revert to the Law from which Jesus has set us free. That's why that person becomes estranged from Christ.

So we have to look at our giving in a completely new way. Of course our Lord wants us to give - and He is our best example of giving. His giving nature caused Him to give His life for each one of us.

Our heartfelt response to this love and generosity is that we want to reciprocate. There is nothing wrong with that and we would encourage everyone to give generously.

We believe in the function of sowing and reaping – that is a natural law, not a law of the written code. We have made sowing and reaping a part of our everyday Christian walk: we could not live without activating this law.

Like any loving Dad, our Lord will teach us and lead us into the fullness of functioning in His own nature. After all, we are “partakers of the Divine nature”. But when we fail, we just go back to God and apologise and find His heart on the subject. He loves us asking and is delighted to help us, just like any loving Dad.

said in Matt 6 v 33: SEEK YE FIRST THE KINGDOM OF GOD AND HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS AND **ALL** THESE THINGS SHALL BE ADDED UNTO YOU. Of course there's no mention of tithing being a provision. **That verse** shows us how to be a receiver of **ALL** things. What more could we want!!?

Time and again in scripture we read that if we ask it shall be given unto us. All we need is mustard-seed-sized faith. Our whole Christian life is founded on faith. Every step we take is by faith. How can we make Almighty God so small in our thinking that we go back to trying to 'do a deal' with Him (like Jacob): – “if I give You 10%, will You look after my finances?” That would be trying to bribe God into giving us what **He has already given us by faith**. What an insult!

Our God is not a 10% God – He is our loving Dad. He is our most generous, loving, open-handed Heavenly Father. That is His nature - He can't be any other way.

Romans 8 v 32 says He has freely given us **all** things. Again, in 1 Tim 6 v 17 it says “. . . GOD, WHO GIVES US RICHLY ALL THINGS TO ENJOY. (No mention of tithing.)

As teaching on tithing gets stronger there seems to be spirits of self-righteousness and pride creeping in. We have heard it said “**I** can't be stolen from because **I** tithe”. “God **has** to bless me because **I** tithe”. Surely the Bible says something about ‘if someone steals your coat, give him your shirt as well’. Father God blesses us for no reason other than He loves us.

GATES. AND THE LEVITE, BECAUSE HE HAS NO PORTION NOR INHERITANCE WITH YOU, AND THE STRANGER AND THE FATHERLESS AND THE WIDOW WHO ARE WITHIN YOUR GATES, MAY COME AND EAT AND BE SATISFIED, THAT THE LORD YOUR GOD MAY BLESS YOU IN ALL THE WORK OF YOUR HAND WHICH YOU DO.

That is the third tithe. So, it seems the aliens, the orphans, the widows and the Levites (?) have been missing out? What do you think about that?

However – back to Malachi. We must remember that these verses include a curse: could the pastor's wife have been right? When you have finished reading this book, it may well be revealed to you from scripture and by the Holy Spirit that in fact the opposite is the case. However, do remember

Under the new and better Covenant, Jesus took our curses – every curse that should have been imputed to us – by hanging on that tree. Gal 3 v 13 says **CHRIST HAS REDEEMED US FROM THE CURSE OF THE LAW, HAVING BECOME A CURSE FOR US (FOR IT IS WRITTEN, “CURSED IS EVERYONE WHO HANGS ON A TREE”)**.

Jesus nailed the Law (with its curses) on the cross; therefore, those who tithe, put themselves the other side of the cross and come under the curse of the Law.

Christ is the end of the Law and Paul said it so many times in different ways: in Galatians 2 v 21 we read “I do not set aside the grace of God; for if righteousness comes through the Law, then Christ died in vain.” How could we go back under the Law?!!

CHAPTER 2

OLD COVENANT OR NEW?

As we have seen, the New Testament is very clear in stating that we have been set free from the Law – and tithing **is** part of the Old Testament Law. In Nehemiah 12 v 44 we read: AND AT THE SAME TIME SOME WERE APPOINTED OVER THE ROOMS OF THE STOREHOUSE FOR THE OFFERINGS, THE FIRSTFRUITS, AND THE TITHES, TO GATHER INTO THEM FROM THE FIELDS OF THE CITIES THE PORTIONS **SPECIFIED BY THE LAW** FOR THE PRIESTS AND LEVITES.

None of the Law (including tithing) applies to Gentiles or to Messianic Jews. If it did, surely the Apostle Paul would have taught it, for he was keen to make sure we understood everything that was important. Romans 10 v 4 says FOR CHRIST IS THE **END OF THE LAW** FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS TO EVERYONE WHO BELIEVES. And Ephesians 2 v 15 says ... BY ABOLISHING IN HIS FLESH THE LAW WITH ITS COMMANDMENTS AND REGULATIONS. It's as clear as it could possibly be!

Paul does state very plainly that whoever endeavours to revert back to the law is obliged to keep **all** of the law. In Gal 5 v 3 he says AND I TESTIFY AGAIN TO EVERY MAN WHO BECOMES CIRCUMCISED THAT HE IS A DEBTOR TO KEEP THE WHOLE LAW.

THAT YOU USE, IT WILL BE MEASURED BACK TO YOU.”

2 Cor 9 v 6 says BUT THIS I SAY: “HE WHO SOWS SPARINGLY WILL ALSO REAP SPARINGLY, AND HE WHO SOWS BOUNTIFULLY WILL ALSO REAP BOUNTIFULLY.” Let each of us take those words into our hearts.

Our beloved Lord demonstrated and taught ‘giving’ as a natural way of life – but He was very scathing to those who were only tithing: In Luke 11 v 42 He says “BUT WOE TO YOU PHARISEES! FOR YOU TITHE MINT AND RUE AND ALL MANNER OF HERBS, AND PASS BY JUSTICE AND THE LOVE OF GOD. THESE YOU OUGHT TO HAVE DONE, WITHOUT LEAVING THE OTHERS UNDONE.”

Because they were Jews **they should have been tithing as part of the whole Law** but apparently they were only keeping the part of the Law that suited them. It seems that many Christians today are doing the same thing if they choose to go back into the old covenant - and then only tithe and not keep the whole Law.

Our Lord Jesus never mentioned tithing except in rebuking the Pharisees. Those Pharisees must have been tithing, even down to the smallest plant growing in their gardens, but Jesus's reaction was “Woe to you” because they left out love and justice. If Christians tithe, our Lord's attitude won't differ because they have made themselves strangers to Him (according to Gal 5 v 4).

So, what do we have to do to receive ALL things? Jesus

CHAPTER 3

GIVING

All born-again Christians are under grace, not under the Law: we function from love, not from duty.

A wealthy Christian farmer (who had bought himself a Porsche), when giving his testimony, related how he had said to the Lord “Now I have this car, I won’t be able to give as much to You”. The Lord’s gracious reply was “Michael, (not his real name) it’s **you** I want, not your money”.

If it is your heart’s desire to give something back to God, then there has to be a right way – and that’s Father’s way – which could be quite different for each of us. He knows our whole circumstances. He knows our hearts and He knows how far He can stretch us in our giving.

Make no mistake, the scriptures on ‘giving’ are absolutely to be relied on. They cannot fail. But they should not be mixed up with the old Law – the two things function under two different Covenants. Sorry to labour the point but some Christians have difficulty taking it in.

As we have already said, it is vitally important that we give, so here are some scriptures on giving: Luke 6 v 38 says “GIVE, AND IT WILL BE GIVEN TO YOU; GOOD MEASURE, PRESSED DOWN, SHAKEN TOGETHER, AND RUNNING OVER WILL BE PUT INTO YOUR BOSOM. FOR WITH THE SAME MEASURE

So what is the ‘whole Law’? There are **613** laws! Here are some of them: not eating blood, keeping the festivals and Shabat, animal sacrifice, eating no pork, prawn or rabbit, circumcision for men, etc, etc. They could not just choose the bits of the Law that it suited them to keep and leave the rest: the Jews were supposed to keep the whole Law. It follows that if Christians today want to go back under the Old Law, they too must keep all of it and live like Jews.

However, we read in Galatians 5 v 4 **an extremely serious statement** - that if we revert to the Law we are estranged from Christ (some translations say ‘severed’): **YOU HAVE BECOME ESTRANGED FROM CHRIST, YOU WHO ATTEMPT TO BE JUSTIFIED BY LAW; YOU HAVE FALLEN FROM GRACE.**

That statement is loud and clear and there is no doubt about what it means. We are justified by what the Lord Jesus Christ accomplished for us on the cross. If Christians go back into tithing, how hurtful it must be to our loving Lord Jesus because they are, in effect, ignoring what He suffered on the cross in order to give us the new Covenant of love and grace. Our prayer for everyone who reads this book is that they will never, ever become strangers to the Lord Jesus Christ and fall from God’s amazing grace. How much do we all depend on His grace?

Over the years we have listened to many tapes by godly ‘big-name’ speakers. We never tithed; our giving was always free and joyful and it gave us a lot of pleasure. However, at the same time we always felt a bit guilty about not following what was being taught.

One day while ministering in the USA the Lord prompted me to say something to a lady that I had not said before. It was “Be released from the tithe”. The tremendous relief in the lady’s response “Oh thank God!” made me realise not only the pressure tithing had put her under but also that God cares so much that He wanted her to know that He doesn’t want her to tithe. This poor woman was struggling to function in something she had no faith for and could not make work. She told me afterwards that she had had huge debts for a very long time.

This set us thinking, praying and exploring the Bible for more teaching on the subject. We asked ourselves - if tithing is not working and not clearing the debt, what is wrong? This was not an isolated case either; we have found many people in similar circumstances as we pray for Christians to get out from under the stifling pressure of debts. *Do you think it is honouring to God for His children to be in debt?*

Rom 13 v 8 says OWE NO ONE ANYTHING EXCEPT TO LOVE ONE ANOTHER, FOR HE WHO LOVES ANOTHER HAS FULFILLED THE LAW.

So, do you think it is righteous to put in the offering, money that should rightfully be paid to creditors? Our answer to that is: only if God tells you to trust Him - and do just that. If **He** prompts you to take a step of faith in that way, then **He** will work it out for you. But if God does not specifically say to give, then the Bible says the creditors should be paid first.

We can find no scripture that says God will **only** supply all our needs according to His riches in glory by Christ Je-

The Pharisees were also lovers of money. Verse 14 says: **NOW THE PHARISEES, WHO WERE LOVERS OF MONEY, ALSO HEARD ALL THESE THINGS, AND THEY DERIDED HIM** (Jesus).

Verse 15: **AND JESUS SAID TO THEM: “YOU ARE THOSE WHO JUSTIFY YOURSELVES BEFORE MEN, BUT GOD KNOWS YOUR HEARTS. FOR WHAT IS HIGHLY ESTEEMED AMONG MEN IS AN ABOMINATION IN THE SIGHT OF GOD.”**

It seems that both those who encourage tithing, and those who tithe, need to examine their motives before God.

In the Old Covenant God says in Malachi 3 v 9 “test Me in this” and in the New Covenant (Luke 4 v 12) Jesus said “do not put the Lord your God to the test.” (Poles apart.)

Back to Paul: read in Acts 21 what happened to him when **he** started to go back under the Law. Very soon after he agreed to be purified according to the Law, he was arrested and put in chains! The Lord saved him from going wrong - it was not necessary for him to be purified. **He was, and we are, already purified by the precious blood of the Lord Jesus Christ.**

We must state clearly here that we do not believe in transubstantiation – it remains physically bread and wine, but BY FAITH we believe what Jesus says, and we discern His body and His blood. Everything in the Christian life (beginning with our salvation) is BY FAITH, and so is everything that follows.

The Bible shows very clearly that if anyone goes from the New Covenant (where Jesus keeps the law for us and we drink what Jesus calls “My blood”) - back into the old Covenant (where they will be cut off from God because they drink blood) **in order to tithe**, they are in very serious trouble. It is like having one foot in the New Covenant and one foot in the Old. That’s an impossible position to be in!

The Pharisees were the ones who wanted everyone to keep the Law: Acts 15 v 5 says BUT SOME OF THE SECT OF THE PHARISEES WHO BELIEVED (they were Christians) ROSE UP, SAYING, “IT IS NECESSARY TO CIRCUMCISE THEM, AND TO COMMAND THEM TO KEEP THE LAW OF MOSES.”

Verse 10 says “NOW THEREFORE, WHY DO YOU TEST GOD BY PUTTING A YOKE ON THE NECKS OF THE DISCIPLES WHICH NEITHER OUR FATHERS NOR WE WERE ABLE TO BEAR?”

In Luke 16 v 13 Jesus says: “NO SERVANT CAN SERVE TWO MASTERS; FOR EITHER HE WILL HATE THE ONE AND LOVE THE OTHER, OR ELSE HE WILL BE LOYAL TO THE ONE AND DESPISE THE OTHER. YOU CANNOT SERVE GOD AND MAMMON”. (Money).

sus - if we tithe 10%! He has already given us EVERYTHING.

Each of us, as a child of God, is required to be responsible in the matter of finance as in any other aspect of our Christian walk.

If anyone wants to tithe, according to the Bible it means they will have to keep the whole Law, and remember, tithing is part of the Law under the old Covenant and it will make them a stranger to Jesus. Then, if they take communion, it will cut them off from God. (Lev 17 v 10).

In Hebrews 7 we read about Abraham paying a one-off tithe to Melchizedek but this was from what had been plundered (spoils) - and incidentally, he didn’t keep the remaining 90% himself, he gave it back. We can find no scripture reference to Abraham (although he was a wealthy man) ever tithing on his increase. The bread and wine that Melchizedek brought to Abraham was a ‘meal of reconciliation’ after the events that had just happened.

We read in Genesis 28 v 22 that Jacob offered a tenth to God - but this was Jacob’s idea, not God’s Law. Jacob was attempting to bribe God to keep him safe and prosper him by promising Him 10% if He did. What an insult to God - and it seems Jacob never fulfilled his promise to Him.

(But, he did become “Israel” and maybe was led to preempt the Law for the Jews.)

Now here are some awesome verses from the Amplified Bible concerning Abraham. Romans 4 verses 13-15: FOR THE PROMISE TO ABRAHAM OR HIS POSTERITY,

THAT HE SHOULD INHERIT THE WORLD, DID NOT COME THROUGH (OBSERVING THE COMMANDS OF) THE LAW BUT THROUGH THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF FAITH.

IF IT IS THE ADHERENTS OF THE LAW WHO ARE TO BE THE HEIRS, THEN FAITH IS MADE FUTILE AND EMPTY OF ALL MEANING AND THE PROMISE (OF GOD) IS MADE VOID (IS ANNULLED AND HAS NO POWER).

FOR THE LAW RESULTS IN (DIVINE) WRATH, BUT WHERE THERE IS NO LAW THERE IS NO TRANSGRESSION (OF IT EITHER).

Now here's another very serious point that must be considered. All of us who take communion are blood-drinkers. Jesus told His disciples "unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood you have no life in you". (John 6 v 53.) This was too much for the disciples: they could not take it, because they knew the Law - and many of them walked away. They could not take something that was so against the Law; something so bad - they would be cut off from God if they consumed blood.

In Leviticus 17 v 10 God says AND WHATEVER MAN OF THE HOUSE OF ISRAEL, OR OF THE STRANGERS WHO DWELL AMONG YOU, WHO EATS ANY BLOOD, I WILL SET MY FACE AGAINST THAT PERSON WHO EATS BLOOD, AND WILL CUT HIM OFF FROM AMONG HIS PEOPLE.

Now, Jesus says many things in Chapter 6 of the gospel of John: "WHOEVER EATS MY FLESH AND DRINKS

MY BLOOD HAS ETERNAL LIFE AND I WILL RAISE HIM UP AT THE LAST DAY" (that's verse 54) and "HE WHO EATS MY FLESH AND DRINKS MY BLOOD ABIDES IN ME, AND I IN HIM." (Verse 56.)

Here is Jesus asking His disciples to eat His flesh and drink His blood. It's very difficult for **us** to cope with as well. If only He had said something like "This bread is a **token** of my body" or "This wine is a symbol of my blood". But He didn't.

Luke's account in Chapter 22 v 19 says: AND HE (Jesus) TOOK BREAD, GAVE THANKS AND BROKE IT, AND GAVE IT TO THEM, SAYING "THIS IS MY BODY WHICH IS GIVEN FOR YOU." Other similar verses are: Mark 14 v 22 and Matt 26 v 26. Please read them too.

Even Paul states: (1 Cor 11.24) when Jesus had broken the bread He said: "TAKE, EAT; **THIS IS MY BODY WHICH IS BROKEN FOR YOU**" and in v 25: "**THIS CUP IS THE NEW COVENANT IN MY BLOOD**".

So, if we take Jesus at His word, we eat His body and drink His blood. As blood drinkers we can only live under the New Covenant - or we are cut off from God. The two Covenants are poles apart.

Faith plays a big part in this. Hebrews 11 v 1 says: NOW FAITH IS THE SUBSTANCE OF THINGS HOPED FOR, THE EVIDENCE OF THINGS NOT SEEN. We believe by faith what Jesus said, because He said it and He cannot lie.