

Valley Bible Church
Sermon Notes for October 14, 2007

The Bible and Personal Finances
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God owns everything and we are only stewards of whatever God has entrusted to us (Deuteronomy 10:14; Psalm 24:1).

It is more blessed to save than to borrow (Deuteronomy 15:6; 28:12).

It is more blessed to give than receive (Acts 20:35).

Based on the Scriptures, how can we know how much to give?

Many churches teach that we should give a tithe, or in other words, ten percent.

Churches that teach tithing as a present day obligation are basing their teaching on the Old Testament.

The moral obligation to tithe was instituted in the Mosaic Law.

The first tithe was the Levites' tithe (Number 18:21-32).

The second tithe was the festival tithe (Deuteronomy 14:28-29).

The third tithe was the charity tithe that was to be given every third year (Deuteronomy 14:28-29).

Christians are not morally obligated to pay the tithes prescribed in the Mosaic Law because Christians are dead to the Law (Romans 7:1-6).

Rather than looking to the Mosaic Law, Churches should be looking to the New Testament in order to answer the question, how much should we give.

The New Testament teaches us that the amount of money that we give should be proportional to the amount of wealth the Lord has blessed us with (1 Corinthians 16:1-2).

The New Testament also teaches us that the amount of money that we give should be a generous amount (2 Corinthians 9:7).

When seeking to apply the principle of generosity in determining the amount of money the Lord would have us to give, we need to understand that generosity is not measured in dollars but in sacrifice (Mark 12:41-44).

Based on the Scriptures, we can know how much to give by prayerfully considering the principles of proportionality and generosity.

Whatever we are prayerfully led to give, after we seek to apply the principles of proportionality and generosity, needs to be given cheerfully (2 Corinthians 9:7).

May God give us the grace to cheerfully and generously give as the Lord has prospered us.