

**“Govern Yourself in Tithes and Offerings”**  
**By Brother Kenneth Ray**  
**Sunday, February 19<sup>th</sup>, 2012**

Today we are going to cover tithes and offerings. What do we mean by a tithe? It is a tenth. What do we mean by an offering? [8641] Sacrifice, or, as tribute, gift. Also, something offered specifically.

If you have been blessed by this ministry or another that you have been a part of, it is because of people who tithe and give offerings. If the building is open—if you sat and heard God’s Word; ever had help with food, or bills, or if you were able to provide help to another—it was because of people who tithe and give offerings.

The church is called anon-profit organization. We get tithes and operate on that; we don’t get government funding. Offerings come in on top of that, and we are able to do more. This is basically how most churches work. That doesn’t mean that the church doesn’t have money set aside for a rainy day—sometimes we do—but that money eventually gets spent for God’s work. Giving is easy to do—just go to the church’s website ([www.myChristianFellowship.org](http://www.myChristianFellowship.org)) and click on the button that says “DONATE.” We also have boxes in the back to support local events for the local ministry (NOTE: those are not tax-deductible).

I want to remind you of two things (to get rid of “the man;” we aren’t doing this for “the man”).

*Colossians 3:17* ...do all in the name of the Lord Jesus giving thanks to God...

I’m not asking for money.

*Colossians 3:23* And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily unto God and not unto men.

He asked for a tenth, but He will accept whatever you give over and above that. The Bible says to render unto Caesar (Mark 2:17), but God should be first.

A little history:

*Hebrews 7:1-6* ...Abraham gave a tenth part of all...

Abraham met God, manifested as Mechisedec, and gave Him a tenth part of all. The sons of Levi have a commandment to take tithes of people according to the law.

*Genesis 28:20-22* ...of all that Thou shalt give me, I will surely give the tenth unto Thee.

God gives us all that we have. Jacob didn’t have the means to just create what he gave God. God does not expect from you before he gives to you.

So, now we see where the tithe came from and that the church didn’t just make it up. A tithe is the minimum God expects, and an offering is something that you give God over and above that. But, this is not a one-way street.

*Luke 6:38      Give, and it shall be given unto you, good measure, pressed down...*

He doesn't want you to scrape the bottom of the barrel to give to Him, after you've had the cream off of the top.

Do you know the difference between being able to get what you want when you get some extra money and having to pay for a major repair (say a car battery) is? I'll tell you it just *might* be tithes and offerings.

There is also the question of quality versus quantity. More important than the amount of money, time, effort, work, etc. is the attitude that you do it with and the quality of the gift. For example, let's look at Jesus on the cross: Let's say He decides to call the ten thousand to get Him off the cross. Yes, he would have proved who He was, and that He was able to do what the scoffers challenged Him to do, but, the attitude and the quality of that act would not have been enough to bring the salvation we all so very much need (without shedding of blood there is no remission of sin—Hebrews 9:22). The attitude in which something is given will decide whether God will bless the offering or not. NOTE: Although offerings are most often considered to be money, we should consider our whole self when making offerings—our time, our talents, and our money.

*Romans 12:1    ...present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God...*

It's not okay to sit and watch. Just like disobeying any other commandment of God, not obeying the commandment of giving is sin (to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin—James 4:17). God places great importance on giving. God expects His people to contribute of their substance, enabling the church to minister. When we give, we acknowledge that it is God who gives to us all that we have.

I'm going to end with a problem and a solution: The problem is that tithes and offerings have been greatly abused by many modern day preachers (most notably the ones on TV). Some people are reluctant to give because they think it goes straight to the preacher's wallet. This concern is understandable when one looks at the physical aspects. The solution is that we must understand that there is a difference if one is truly giving to God. Once we freely give our offering, it belongs to God, not man, and we receive our reward from God.

*Matthew 6:3    ...thy Father which seeth in secret Himself shall reward thee openly.*

Every person has responsibilities to account for money offered to God; we will have to give account to God as stewards.

God doesn't care if you are rich or poor or middle class. From each person, God wants His portion, and He wants to not be forgotten about, so that He can fulfil His intent to open Heaven's windows and pour out your blessing (Malachi 3:10).