

TALKINGPOINTS WALKINGPOINTS

2019.11.24



Talk together about the glory of God's kingdom. —Psalm 145:11
Love the Lord your God and **walk** in all his ways. —Joshua 22:5

Questions for Discussion & Application

- What from Sunday's message interested you? ...made sense to you? ...confused you? ...intrigued you? ...upset you? ...encouraged you? ...and **why**?
- **Why** do you think God's instructions on giving include **both** freewill and required giving? **How** would **your** giving be impacted if God's plan **only** included **freewill** giving? **only required**?
- Read 2 Corinthians. 8:1-5. Identify the four aspects of the **example** of giving we are to follow (they gave **sacrificially** and **liberally**, they gave **of their own initiative** apart from external pressure, and they gave as a **part of their larger personal devotion to God**).

To what degree do you think your giving qualifies as "sacrificial"? "liberal" (ie, generous)?
"of your own initiative" (ie, uncoerced)? "part of your 'whole-life' personal devotion to God"?

Why do you think the Macedonians viewed giving as a "privilege" (v. 4)?

Have you ever "begged" for the privilege of contributing to something (v. 4)?

- Do you **resent** having to pay taxes? **Should** you? **Why or why not?** What **benefits** result from taxes?
Do you **like** giving to your church family? **Should** you? **Why or why not?** **Who** benefits from your giving?
- Read 1 Corinthians 16:1-2 & 2 Corinthians 8:12. Identify the four elements of God's **plan** for giving (**systematic, personally-determined, proportionate to how God has prospered us, and the responsibility of all.**) Which of those elements would you say you're **doing well** at observing?

Which ones, "*not so much*"?

What practical things could you do to improve as a giver?

Application-Challenge

- Submit to the lordship of Jesus Christ. All stewardship begins here.
- Pay your taxes. ("Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's—but not a penny more!")
- Generously support the ministry of your church home.
- Fill out an estimate of giving card.
- Consider electronic giving options.



Sermon Summary Key Passage: Matthew 22:21

What is God's plan for supporting the local church? Is tithing the God ordained method of funding the ministry of the local church, or is there another standard we are to use? A "tithe" simply means ten percent. Those who endorse tithing teach that we are to give ten percent of our income to support the ministry of the local church. Tithing is rooted in the teaching of the Old Testament as it related to the nation of Israel. The question we need to answer is not, "Is tithing biblical?" It clearly was an obligation for the nation of Israel when it was living under the Old Covenant Mosaic Law. The question is, "Is tithing an abiding principle for the church, living as we do, under the New Covenant?"

In order to make this determination, it is helpful to divide history into the **three time periods** shown in the chart shown here: Also note that throughout biblical history, giving has fallen into **two basic categories**: freewill giving and required giving. Freewill giving is directed toward the Lord in an attitude of love and sacrifice. Freewill giving is encouraged, but the amount is voluntary and unspecified.

Examples of freewill giving during the period **before Moses** include: Genesis 4:3-4; 8:20; 12:7; 13:18; 14:20; 28:22. During this period before Moses there also was required giving, in which the proportion was specified (Genesis 41:34; 47:24-26 tell of a taxation to fund the government of Egypt so that it could meet the needs of its people during times of famine.) This is the only indication that an amount was ever prescribed in pre-Mosaic times. All other offerings were completely freewill offerings.

1	2	3
Before Moses	From Moses to Christ	From Christ to Present
Pre-Law	Law	Post-Law
Freewill & Required	Freewill & Required	Freewill & Required
Israel	Israel	Church

Examples of required giving during the period **from Moses to Jesus** are: [1] the Levites Tithe, 10% (Leviticus 27:30-33); [2] the Festival Tithe, 10% (Deuteronomy 12:6-7); [3] the Poor Tithe, 3.33% (Deuteronomy 14:28-29); [4] the King's Tithe, 10% (1 Samuel 8:14-17). This adds up to 33.33%. A simple "tithe" (10%) is a long way from what it cost the Jew to live within the theocracy of Israel... but we are not done yet! There were other "taxes" levied on Israel: [5] Gleaning (Leviticus 19:9-10); [6] the Temple Tax, 1/3 shekel (Nehemiah 10:32-33); [7] the "Sabbath rest" (Exodus 23:10-11); and [8] cancellation of all debts (Deuteronomy 15:1-2, 9). But there also was freewill giving during this period. [9] First fruits giving, (Proverbs 3: 9-10); [10] Freewill offering (Exodus 25:1-2, 8). People gave willingly and generously from their heart.

Before moving onto God's plan for giving today, I'd like to set forth my **objections to tithing** as it is commonly taught today. [1] Tithing (required giving) was not operative prior to the Law of Moses. [2] Although tithing was part of the Mosaic Law, it was not 10%, as many suppose, but 33.33%. [3] Only some people were to tithe (farmers and herdsmen only—and they gave a tenth of their produce, not money). [4] The tithe went to the nation of Israel (a civic-religious entity), not to a church. [5] Tithing was part of the Mosaic Law, which the church is not under (Romans 6:14; 10:4; Hebrews 7:12).

What is **God's plan for giving today?** [1] We give to the government through taxation (Romans 13: 6-7). It is God's will that you pay your taxes; they are an example of "required giving." Your giving to the church, on the other hand, comes under the category of [2] "freewill giving." In Luke 6:38 Jesus gives us the **pattern** for giving. In 1 Corinthians 16:1-2 and 2 Corinthians 8:12 we get a **plan** for giving. It is to be **systematic, personally-determined, proportionate to how God has prospered us**, and is **the responsibility of all**. 2 Corinthians. 8:1-5 gives us an **example** to follow: They gave **sacrificially** and **liberally** (v. 3), they gave **of their own initiative** apart from external pressure (vv. 3-4), and they gave as a **part of their larger personal devotion to God** (v. 5). Believers should be known as much for their generous, sacrificial giving as they are for other Christian virtues (8:7). Remember, God owns it all. We are stewards, not owners. Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's and to God the things that are God's. (Matthew 22:21)

Digging Deeper in Your Daily Quiet Time

"Five Question Bible Study" (see page below) *is a simple way to study any topic.*
Let's use it to learn more about biblical attitudes toward giving...

Monday— Study Proverbs 11:25; 19:17; 22:9 & 28:27.

Tuesday— Study Psalm 112:5.

Wednesday— Study Luke 6:30, 38.

Thursday— Study Luke 11:13.

Friday— Study Luke 12:33.

Saturday— ***In preparation for worshipping your risen Lord tomorrow with your church family,*** study Colossians 1.

Need blank copies for doing more
"Five Question Bible Study"?
e-mail: Dan.Clement.TCC@gmail.com

Bible Text: _____

Date: _____



What idea particularly strikes me from this text? [Note in which verse(s) it is found.]



What question does this text raise in my mind—and how would **this text** answer it?



What about Jesus Christ—his character and/or his redemption—relates to this text?



What action must I take as a result of this text? Be concrete and specific.



With whom will I share what I learned from this text? [and what was their response?]