



If I Don't Tithe, Will I Be Punished?

By
Reverend Fuzzy

This has been a hot (sometimes volatile) topic for centuries. Let's see if we can put this question to rest, once and for all... first, you must realize that even though tithing is not a law, it is commanded of us, by God. I think we can all agree a command from God supercedes all of man's laws by a wide margin. And what is this tithe you're supposed to be giving? Let's take a closer look...

As early as the book of Genesis, we find Abraham giving something called a "tithe" to the priest Melchizedek. In Hebrew, the word tithe is *maaser* and in the Greek it's *dekate*. But the literal meaning of both words is tenth.

Abraham tithed in Genesis 14 after returning from the rescue of his nephew Lot from four enemy kings. When he encountered Melchizedek, he voluntarily surrendered to him one-tenth of all the spoils he had taken from his enemies.

People sometimes argue that the tithe was part of the Mosaic Law and doesn't apply to modern-day Christians, who are not under the law. But Abraham tithed some 430 years *before* the Law was given to Moses.

Furthermore, even in the days of Moses, the tithe was not a law. Although it appears in the legal book of Leviticus (chapter 27), there is no punishment associated with the failure to tithe. However, there is a consequence: loss of blessings.

So as we can conclude, there's no punishments, like plagues of locust, fire from the sky, or anything like that, but it does incur a restriction, causing the flow of blessings from God to dry up. However, we can get the flow started again, as it shows in Malachi 3:10... "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."

I think I could enjoy a multitude of blessings, where all it costs me is a meager 10% of the income that God allows me to have anyway.... how about you? Are you ready for the floodgates to open?

Disagree? Talk to me.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rev. Fuzzy". The signature is written in a cursive, somewhat stylized font.