

“The Test of Tithing:
A Summary of Biblical Giving”
Malachi 3:8-10

Introduction:

1. Old Testament: The Test Established

A. Genesis 14

→ **Principle #1:** Tithing is a response of gratitude, not a bribe for blessing.

B. Genesis 28

→ **Principle #2:** Tithing recognizes that all material possessions (and money) come from God, and acts as a pledge to serve Him with them

C. Leviticus 27:30-32

→ **Principle #3:** The tithe was/is taken from all types of income received from God. Make sure to tithe a tenth of *everything*.

D. Deuteronomy 14:22-29

1. **Principle #4:** Tithing was and is partly for the support of those who minister among us, and the needy. (Numbers 18:21)
2. **Principle #5:** There is more to the tithe than just pragmatically providing for ministry needs. It was to express joyful gratitude (v. 26).
3. **Principle #6:** Tithing teaches the fear of God by reminding us Who the Giver is. (v. 23)
4. **Principle #7:** Tithes were and are usually given to God by giving to others.

Interjection: Aren't tithes a legalistic O.T. rule?

Don't we have freedom from the Law in Christ?

II. New Testament: The Test Expanded

A. Matt. 23:23

1. **Principle #8:** The spirit behind the tithe (justice, mercy, and faithfulness) is more important to God than the percentage.
2. **Principle #9:** Jesus did not abolish tithing, but built on it.

B. Luke 18:9-14

- ◆ **Principle #10:** Tithing must not be done to help a person feel righteous, with contempt for those who don't give as much.

C. Paul's Teaching: No Mention of "Tithing"

1. 1 Cor. 16:2

- **Principle #11:** Giving should be set aside, not just what's left over.
- **Principle #12:** Giving should still be proportional.

2. 2 Cor. 8:1-5

- **Principle #13:** Sacrificial, generous giving is commended over comfortable, cautious giving.

3. 2 Cor. 9:6-13

- **Principle #13:** Giving is to be done cheerfully and willingly as God leads.
- **Principle #14:** The main goal of giving is to reap a harvest of righteous worship in the lives of others as they experience God's grace through us.

Proposed: That Redemption Hill Church commit from this point forward to gift at least 15% of our incoming tithes/offerings outside of our own programs, properties, and people.