

The Tithe Test

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Is 10% of your gross income to be given to the local church for the rest of your life? What do you actually know about the Biblical teaching on the tithe? Well, here is your chance to find out! Below are twenty questions worth five points each. Normally, 60% would be a passing grade. But in this case, I want you to study this subject until you score 100% ! Why do I want this? Well, if your income averages \$50K a year, after fifty years, you will have given a **quarter of a million dollars** to the local church. It does seem sensible to ask some questions about this - and know some answers. Actually, it is wrong for you to give 10% of your gross income **to anybody** without knowing **for sure** it is God's will ...100% sure. That's why I want you to work on this until you are an A+ student!

Take this right now, closed book, cold turkey, and write your answers on a separate sheet of paper. Don't cheat by looking at the answers. **Go!**

1. How many Bible authors wrote commands about the tithe - its purpose, amount and procedures?
2. Who are they?
3. What was done with the third and sixth year tithe? Who had access to it?
4. Can you explain the "tithe cycle" of the Israelites?
5. What was done with the tithe every seventh year?
6. Explain Abram's tithe. What did Abram give Melchizedek?
7. Did any of the Levites tithe? If so, to whom and how much?
8. How much money did the tithers give to the Levitical Priests?
9. In the "to the Levites" tithing years, did all the tithe go to the Levites?
10. What group did Jacob give his tenth to?
11. What were the conditions God must meet before Jacob would give that tenth?
12. When was the tithe "rediscovered?"
13. Who is credited with that "rediscovery?"
14. What was the catalyst for that "rediscovery?"
15. Is tithing the number one responsibility for the Christian and his/her money?

16. What kind of curse should the Christian expect for failing to tithe (Mal 3:17-23)?
17. Where did Jesus tell Christians to bring their tithe?
18. Where did Paul, or the other New Testament writers, tell Christians to bring the tithe?
19. When the Corinthians, and others, were making their collection for the saints, what was done with that collection before Paul and company took it to Judea?
20. Can the tithe be given to parachurch ministries?

Now, before rushing down to grade yourself, let's address one other little item. It seems reasonable to me that anyone who tells you God requires you to tithe - should be willing to answer a few questions (like ... maybe twenty?). And if that person scores under 60%, well, ... where I grew up, that was an "F." Should you be expected to yield to such "expertise?" But, even if expected ... *should you?*

How to give this test to others.

1. Practice on a friend or two (I did). It's fun.
2. Tell your "testee," you took a tithe test - and how you scored. Tell them you are curious how well they can do. My friends were eager to show me up.
3. Either give the test orally or lay a copy of this before them. In either case, let them write down their answers. All that really matters is that the test is taken right then, in the order written, as a "pop quiz." No questions in advance - or taken home.
4. Grade it on the spot (they will want to know how they did).

The Answers

*"The mind of the intelligent seeks knowledge,
but the mouth of fools feeds on folly"* (Pr 15:14).

Multiply the number of correct answers by 5 to get the percentage score.

1. One.
2. Moses. In Malachi, God was speaking and simply reiterated the commands in the Law.
3. It was kept in the local town. It was for the local Levite, alien, orphan, and widow.
4. Year one, two, four and five were taken to the designated place (eventually Jerusalem). Year three and six - see question 3 answer. Year seven - see below.
5. There wasn't one. There was not one on year fifty (Year of Jubilee) either.

6. He gave him 10% of the choicest spoils of a bunch of stuff he had no intention of keeping anyway. He gave *nothing* of his own possessions.
7. Yes. Those Levites not of Aaron's family gave a tithe of the tithe they received. They gave it to the priests of Aaron's family.
8. None. The tithe was *never money*.
9. The tithe of year one, two, four and five were shared by the tither with the Levite in a celebratory meal when the tithe was given. What was left over stayed with the Levite. In year three and six, it appears the tither deposited the whole amount in the local town without partaking of any of it.
10. There was no "group" to give it to of which we know. If the testee simply says, "God," go ahead and give him/her credit. The testee is still going to flunk.
11. God had to be with him, keep him on his journey, give him food to eat, give him garments to wear, and return him safely to his father's house. At that point, God would be his God. The tenth came (we assume) twenty years later. It was a vow fulfillment.
12. After the Bill of Rights was adopted in the United States.
13. American Theologians in the Higher Criticism of Systematic Theology.
14. The loss of the church's ability to tax citizens (The First Amendment in the Bill of Rights) caused a financial crisis in the church. That led to this "rediscovery."
15. No. Family obligations are number one. There is no tithe for Christians anyway.
16. There aren't any. Christians are not Jews under Law.
17. He didn't, because there isn't one.
18. They didn't, because there isn't one.
19. It was saved - probably at home by each contributor.
20. There is no such thing as a parachurch ministry, and there is no tithe for the Christian either. All the assumptions in this question are nonsense.

These answers are correct.

The teaching that is going around today is not the Tithe of the Bible. In fact, this "new teaching" is totally foreign to the Bible. A legitimate Biblical word and teaching (tithe) has been hijacked - and applied it to this new concoction.

God does have specific priorities for your money. But that design is not found in this

“new teaching.” This “tithe” teaching is actually extortion in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ. But, it is not just the extortioner who will be held to account. The one being duped is also accountable. It is our responsibility to seek out God’s knowledge and will in all matters. And in this matter, “I have not spoken in secret, in some dark land” (Isa 45:19). God’s material on the tithe, and His priorities for our money, are clearly stated in the Bible - there for the reading.

So, how did you do? Are you comfortable with your current knowledge level on this matter?

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