



**RISE ON FIRE MINISTRIES  
TEACHING NOTES**

## **The Responsibility to Give: Is Tithing for Today?**

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### **The Responsibility to Give: Is Tithing for Today? by PD Vander Westhuizen**

Giving or "Tithing" today is a controversial matter. Many have been hurt in the past through prosperity teachings or betrayals and refuse to ever give again, others give a 10% "tithe", and others a simple offering whenever led. But what is the responsibility of believers who receive teaching/edification in their faith from a minister? And should pastors or other full-time ministers receive salaries in the first place?

The video deals with: (1) Is there biblical precedent for those in full time ministry to get a salary from ministry. And (2) what is the financial responsibility of believers who receives teaching or edification from a minister.

While this teaching was from the perspective of "giving back" to those who have edified us in the faith, I would like to also remind you not to forsake the poor, the lost, the orphan and widow - who should also be cared for by the body of believers. We ought to take care of each other wherever there is a need. Whether this need is an orphan or a pastor, we ought to give with joy, as a gift to God.

#### Intro

- I recently made a video dealing with how pastors are NOT TO CHARGE for the gospel, but to rather make it available freely.
- But there is also another side, which we need to bring balance to.

- There is a responsibility of a teacher NOT TO CHARGE, but also a responsibility of the giver to give back to ministers who have brought them teaching or another kind of edification. **Not to give under compulsion, but freely in joy.**

### Can Pastors Work Full Time Ministry and Receive Support for doing so?

- Many believe teachers must work a second job for their wages in addition to doing ministry full time, is this true?
- LOOK AT THE BEST EXAMPLE OF HOW TO WALK: How did our Messiah do it?

### He followed the principles of His Father:

[Deu 25:4](#) Thou shalt not muzzle the ox when he treadeth out *the corn*.

- Allow Oxen to eat of the harvest it is helping to bring in
- If you allow a minister to plough in the harvest and benefitting you through teaching, you should not muzzle him, but support him.
  - 1Co 9:11 If we have sown spiritual seed among you, is it too much if we reap material goods from you?

1Co 9:14 So also the Master instituted that those announcing the Good News should live from the Good News.

### How was Jesus provided for?

[Luk 8:1](#) Soon afterward he went on through cities and villages, proclaiming and bringing the good news of the kingdom of God. And the twelve were with him, [Luk 8:2](#) and also some women who had been healed of evil spirits and infirmities: Mary, called Magdalene, from whom seven demons had gone out, [Luk 8:3](#) and Joanna, the wife of Chuza, Herod's household manager, and Susanna, and many others, **who provided for them out of their means.**

### But Paul Didn't Charge?

1Co 9:4 Do we not have a right to eat and drink?

1Co 9:5 **Do we not have a right to take along a sister – a wife** – as do also the other emissaries, and the brothers of the Master, and Kěpha?

1Co 9:6 Or do only Barnaba and I have no right to refrain from working?

1Co 9:7 Who serves as a soldier **at his own expense**? Who plants a vineyard and does not eat of its fruit? Or who shepherds a flock and does not feed on the milk of the flock?

1Co 9:8 Do I say this as a man? Or does not **the Torah** say the same too?

1Co 9:9 For it has been written in the Torah of Mosheh, "You shall not muzzle an ox while it treads out the grain." Deu 25:4 Is it about oxen Elohim is concerned?

1Co 9:10 Or does He say it because of us all? For this was written because of us, that he who ploughs should plough in expectation, and the thresher in expectation of sharing.

1Co 9:11 **If we have sown spiritual seed among you, is it too much if we reap material goods from you?**

1Co 9:12 If others share authority over you, should not rather we? But we have not used this authority, but we put up with all, **lest we hinder the Good News of Messiah.**

1Co 9:13 **Do you not know that those serving the Set-apart Place eat from the Set-apart Place, and those attending at the slaughter-place have their share of the offerings of the slaughter-place?**

1Co 9:14 **So also the Master instituted that those announcing the Good News should live from the Good News.**

1Co 9:15 **But I have used none of these (lest the Good News is hindered),** nor have I written this that it should be done so to me. For it would be better for me to die than that anyone should make my boasting empty.

**But why? He wanted to Be An Example to them**

[Act 20:33](#) I have coveted no man's silver, or gold, or apparel.

[Act 20:34](#) Yea, ye yourselves know, that these hands have ministered unto my necessities, and to them that were with me.

[Act 20:35](#) I have shewed you all things, how that **so labouring ye ought to support the weak**, and to remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said, It is more blessed to give than to receive.

- **It depended on the audience:** There were **times of tentmaking**, and **times of full time ministry**, **so that he may impart what is necessary** for his particular audience.

**Another Example:**

[Rom 15:24](#) I hope to see you in passing as I go to Spain, and **to be helped on my journey there by you**, once I have enjoyed your company for a while.

**But Paul did receive?...**

[Php 4:10](#) But I rejoiced in the Lord greatly, that now at the last **your care of me hath flourished again**; wherein ye were also careful, but ye lacked opportunity.

[Php 4:15](#) Now ye Philippians know also, that in the beginning of the gospel, when I departed from Macedonia, **no church communicated with me as concerning giving and receiving, but ye only.**

[Php 4:16](#) For even in Thessalonica **ye sent once and again** unto my necessity.

[Php 4:17](#) Not because I desire a gift: but I desire fruit that may abound to your account.

[Php 4:18](#) But I have all, and abound: I am full, **having received of Epaphroditus the things *which were sent* from you, an odour of a sweet smell, a sacrifice acceptable, wellpleasing to God.**

[Php 4:19](#) But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

**Paul also writes: Let the elders receive double honor**

[1Ti 5:17](#) Let the elders that rule well be counted worthy of **double honour**, especially they who **labour** in the word and doctrine.

[1Ti 5:18](#) For the scripture saith, Thou shalt not muzzle the ox that treadeth out the corn. And, **The labourer *is* worthy of his reward.**

**Share with the one who teaches**

[Gal 6:6](#) Let the one who is taught the word **share all good things with the one who teaches.**

**Prosperity Teachers**

- In Messianic circles, we often say “**that’s what we did in church**” and throw the baby out with the bath water. Or **get hurt by prosperity teachers**, hurting our ability to give.
  - **What if the erroneous teachings of prosperity teachers is a ploy by Satan to hurt the faith of believers, to prevent them from giving where their funds are actually most needed?**

**What happens if the people don't give?**

**When the Levites were forced to work back in the fields**

[Neh 13:10](#) I also found out that the portions of the Levites **had not been given to them**, so that the Levites and the singers, who did the work, **had fled each to his field.**

**Robbing God - How?**

[Mal 3:8](#) Will man rob God? Yet you are robbing me. But you say, ‘**How have we robbed you?**’ In your **tithes and contributions.**

[Mal 3:9](#) You are cursed with a curse, for you are robbing me, the whole nation of you.

- They **rob God** by not **giving** so the priests don't have the ability to **teach the nations**. The priests lose jobs, then the people walk in **lawlessness**

[Mal 3:10](#) Bring the full tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. **And thereby put me to the test**, says the LORD of hosts, if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and **pour down for you a blessing until there is no more need**.

- The "Blessing" is the blessing of lawfulness that will come from **having priests teaching the word as a full-time occupation**.

## TITHING

Churches and pastors have misused and abused the commandments of tithing to the Levites.

- They have made it a **legalistic obligation** and **burden**
- What is the **balance**?

Jesus' approval on tithes:

**Mat 23:23** "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you **tithe** mint and dill and cumin, and have **neglected the weightier matters of the law**: justice and mercy and faithfulness. These you ought to have done, **without neglecting the others**.

- **ONLY** The Levitical priesthood could receive offerings according to the law:

[Num 18:21](#) "To the Levites I have given every tithe in Israel for an inheritance, in return for their service that they do, their service in the tent of meeting.

- In the law, all tithes and offerings for people, go to the **Levites, widows and orphans**.

But before the law, the principle of tithing was well-known:

- *Jacob to God*

[Gen 28:20](#) Then Jacob made a vow, saying, "If God will be with me and will keep me in this way that I go, and will give me bread to eat and clothing to wear,

[Gen 28:21](#) so that I come again to my father's house in peace, then the LORD shall be my God,

[Gen 28:22](#) and this stone, which I have set up for a pillar, shall be God's house.

**And of all that you give me I will give a full tenth to you."**

- Concept of giving a tenth was known and exercised by Jacob: **PREDATING THE LEVITICAL PRIESTHOOD**

- So where did he give? **Where God's Spirit led him to give.**

- *Abraham to Melchizedek*

[Gen 14:18](#) And Melchizedek king of Salem brought out **bread and wine**. (He was **priest of God Most High**.)

[Gen 14:19](#) And he blessed him and said, "Blessed be Abram by God Most High, Possessor of heaven and earth;

[Gen 14:20](#) and blessed be God Most High, **who has delivered your enemies into your hand!**" And Abram gave him a tenth of everything.

- Why did Abraham give?

**Priest Bringing Bread & Wine:** Represents the **Word of God and Blood of the Lamb - He gave Abraham spiritual nourishment**

**Melchizedek declared victory was from God**

**Abraham gave as thanks to God: Giving what we've received to God reminds us where it came from (God).**

Deut 8:18 But thou shalt remember the LORD thy God: for **it is he that giveth thee power to get wealth**, that he may establish his covenant which he sware unto thy fathers, as it is this day.

- **The principle** of giving a tenth to God / A priest of God **predates Torah law**  
It was a taught principle passed down orally from the Garden, like clean/unclean, sacrifices and the sabbath

#### Tithing Conclusion - The Principle

- We have the principle of the tithe in scripture, even before the law
  - **The principle is** to give 10% to God, and to give to any teacher/priest who has blessed us with **revelation, edification**, or if **God simply told us to give**
- **But no Torah law** for us to give 10% of money to a Melchizedek priests/pastors
  - Each should give what He has determined in His heart (a "free will offering").  
**But 10% is a good starting principle.**

#### The law of Christ is a heavier burden: To walk as He did, to give as He would - A Living Sacrifice

- You are a living sacrifice and a slave to Christ, you don't just give 10% to God, He deserves **100% control**. Let Him help you determine your accounting of what to spend on what.
- **While Abraham gave a tenth**, he **also gave his child** as sacrifice (Isaac).
- God doesn't want a **legalistic giver**

**Whatever Terminology is OK: Just give!**

- Whatever you believe regarding the terminology of **Tithing** or a "**Free Will Offering**", it is OK, what is important is that you are led by the Spirit in your giving and do give if you are able.

#### Give what is in the heart

[2Co 9:6](#) But this *I say*, He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully.

[2Co 9:7](#) Every man **according as he purposeth in his heart**, *so let him give*; not **grudgingly**, or of **necessity**: for God loveth a **cheerful giver**.

[2Co 9:8](#) And God *is able to make all grace abound toward you*; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all *things*, may abound to every good work:

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**Giving proves and tests your relationship with God  
by proving your lack of attachment to the world**