

Hebrews 7.4-10

Tithes and Priesthood

There is a connection between the priesthood, the people and the tithe. There is much which the tithe speaks of besides merely our money. It is a confession of our relationship. It is a confession of our dependence and obedience but it also is a confession of God's providence for His people both in things material and things spiritual. It spoke and speaks through the priesthood and its conclusion in Christ, and it speaks even now as God's people faithfully contribute to His kingdom confessing that God is more than able and abundantly faithful to provide more than we can ever give.

I. REPRESENTATIVE OF A PRINCIPLE

A. It is reserved unto God to remind us

Leviticus 27:30 (NKJV)

³⁰ And all the tithe of the land, whether of the seed of the land or of the fruit of the tree, is the Lord's. It is holy to the Lord.

1. All we are is God's
 2. All we have, came from Him
 3. All we do should submit unto Him
 4. We belong to HIM alone
- B. It is a confession of God's faithfulness to us

Deuteronomy 26.8-11

- C. Thus the tithe is a covenant issue, its obedience is directly connected to the covenant that binds God's people to Himself

Deuteronomy 12.1-14

II. GOD DOES NOT NEED THE TITHE

Psalm 50

- A. He has all He needs
- B. We need to give it
- C. We need to be reminded of the principle
- D. We tend to run to our own ways

III. PRIESTHOOD GOD'S REPRESENTATIVE

- A. They stood between the people and God
- B. They received the tithe in God's place

Numbers 18.21-24

- C. They interceded for the people, offering the sacrifices and prayers on behalf of the people who were not allowed to approach God
- D. The use of the tithe, being given with no say in how it was used was also representative of the principle that we belong to God and that there was a separation between us and God

IV. USE WAS ALSO REPRESENTATIVE

- A. Do not forget that the honor given to the tithe is representative of our covenant with

Him. All of God's care for the tithe is designed to remind us of that simple fact.

B. Neglect of the tithe is sin that God will not bless

Malachi 3.8-12

1. He will bring His judgments upon you
2. He will bring wrath upon those who use His tithe in the worship of false gods

Amos 4.1-5

3. He will have what is His

C. Corruption in the tithe is an abomination

1. Those who give it in order to be seen are false and God will not tolerate them

Matthew 23:23–24 (NKJV)

²³ “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you pay tithe of mint and anise and cummin, and have neglected the weightier matters of the law: justice and

mercy and faith. These you ought to have done, without leaving the others undone. ²⁴ Blind guides, who strain out a gnat and swallow a camel!

2. Jesus said that those who do are a contagion

Luke 11:42–44 (NKJV)

⁴² “But woe to you Pharisees! For you tithe mint and rue and all manner of herbs, and pass by justice and the love of God. These you ought to have done, without leaving the others undone. ⁴³ Woe to you Pharisees! For you love the best seats in the synagogues and greetings in the marketplaces. ⁴⁴ Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you are like graves which are not seen, and the men who walk over them are not aware of them.”

3. He warned them that their outward giving and doing was not good for anything but fuel for the fires of wrath

Luke 18:9–14 (NKJV)

⁹ Also He spoke this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and despised others: ¹⁰ “Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. ¹¹ The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, ‘God, I thank You that I am not like other men—extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this tax collector. ¹² I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I possess.’ ¹³ And the tax collector, standing afar off, would not so much as raise his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, ‘God, be merciful to me a sinner!’ ¹⁴ I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.”

D. The tithe was to be used to aid those in need

Deuteronomy 26.12-15

1. This was demonstrative of God's love for His people

2. It was also hands of caring and loving which we have need of
3. It was intensely personal

a. Both in its denial

- i. Either to self
- ii. Or to those who desire only to be lazy

2Thessalonians 3:10–12 (NKJV)

¹⁰ For even when we were with you, we commanded you this: If anyone will not work, neither shall he eat. ¹¹ For we hear that there are some who walk among you in a disorderly manner, not working at all, but are busybodies. ¹² Now those who are such we command and exhort through our Lord Jesus Christ that they work in quietness and eat their own bread.

b. And in its generosity

- i. The fatherless
- ii. The widow
- iii. The stranger passing through was shown hospitality

4. It was also a confession of God's goodness to us

E. The tithe was used to support the priesthood

1. This demonstrated their own dependence upon God
2. It also showed their unique place as those who stood between.

V. BOOKENDED PRIESTS

- A. They Showed their submission before they began
- B. They have come to the end of their time, submitting again to the Christ who is the all in all of everything
- C. There is no acceptable priesthood now but Jesus
 1. Not catholic
 2. Not buddhist
 3. Not mormon

4. Not any other false teaching
5. Not any orthodox teacher either, a pastor is a pastor. An undershepherd of Christ whose duty is to teach you, not to stand between you and God

VI. CHRIST ONLY REPRESENTATIVE

Christ is now the only representative who stands before God and man. There is no one else who has the power, the access, the means, the authority or the basic worth to intercede on your behalf.

- A. Not to discount intercessory prayer, to speak to God for another, but to say that anyone has MORE right, power or access is contrary to scripture.
- B. The tithe now given is given directly to God and His work here, and you have a say in how it is used, the same voice as any member of the body.
- C. The priesthood as a formal office is ended

1Timothy 2:5–6 (NKJV)

⁵ For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus, ⁶ who gave Himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time,

1. No priest has the power to intercede for you, for the sacrifice has been completed and does not need to be repeated, ever.
2. No priest has the right to intercede for you, living or dead, only Christ

D. You ARE the priesthood of God because of the Holy Spirit living within you. You have been chosen, purchased, sanctified, anointed for the service of the King and not one other person on the planet is more than that, no matter what other or different role they may serve.

1Peter 2:9–10 (NKJV)

⁹ But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; ¹⁰ who once were not

a people but are now the people of God, who had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy.

E.As the chosen children of God we are of more value and importance than any other who is not... do not allow society to convince you that some hollywood elite, or business guru, or grasping, duplicitous politician is more than you. You are a blood-bought child of God!