

In the Bible, God always sustains His work by His people. The New Testament church-era is no different.

Tithes & Offerings – The “tithe” means ten percent. This is God’s standard of church membership giving which sustains the ministers and ministries of the church. The “offerings” are free-will gifts beyond the tithe.

Key verse: 1 Corinthians 9:13-14 “Do ye not know that they which minister about holy things live of the things of the temple? and they which wait at the altar are partakers with the altar? (v.14) Even so hath the Lord ordained that they which preach the gospel should live of the gospel.”

Genesis 14:18-20 “*And Melchizedek king of Salem brought forth bread and wine: and he was the priest of the most high God. (v.19) And he blessed him, and said, Blessed be Abram of the most high God, possessor of heaven and earth: (v.20) And blessed be the most high God, which hath delivered thine enemies into thy hand. And he gave him tithes of all.*” – Abram gave tithes to the King-Priest of the Most High God. Believers practiced tithing before the law.

Leviticus 27:30 “*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 unto the LORD.*” – Believers practiced tithing under the law. The tithe is the LORD’S, it belongs to God.

Matthew 23:23 “*Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye pay tithe of mint and anise and cummin, and have omitted the weightier matters of the law, judgment, mercy, and faith: these ought ye to have done, and not to leave the other undone.*” – Believers practice tithing after the law.

1 Corinthians 9:14 “*Even so hath the Lord ordained that they which preach the gospel should live of the gospel.*” – The context covers how the Temple of God was sustained during its tenure. In a similar way the New Testament church is to be financed the exact same way: through the people’s tithes and offerings.

Malachi 3:8-12 “*Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings. (v.9) Ye are cursed with a curse: for ye have robbed me, even this whole nation. (v.10) Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the LORD of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it. (v.11) And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, and he shall not destroy the fruits of your ground; neither shall your vine cast her fruit before the time in the field, saith the LORD of hosts. (v.12) And all nations shall call you blessed: for ye shall be a delightful land, saith the LORD of hosts.*” – The priests of Malachi’s day incurred God’s curse for corrupting the tithes and offerings. Christians today incur God curse for corrupting His tithes and offerings. But a cheerful, and generous, and sacrificial giver receives God’s blessings. The storehouse is the Temple, and today the storehouse is put for the church house.

1 Corinthians 16:2 “*Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come.*” - A wise and Scriptural practice is the weekly laying in store of the tithes and offerings is expected in the assembly upon the “first day of the week.”

Tithes and offerings is about recognizing God and giving to Him what He wants.