

Giving

by Randy Henson

Slide Notes

Leviticus 27:30

A tithe of everything from the land, whether grain from the soil or fruit from the trees, belongs to the LORD.

Tithe: a tenth

We are doing a little better than that but we believe that if 100% of this church actually tithed then the church income would be over \$3 million

I believe that in order to do the least possible thing you can and stay in covenant with God you tithe

Who wants to do as little as possible?

70 on your report card

\$\$\$ Business (So private)

Cursed business

Malachi 3:8-9

“Should people cheat God? Yet you have cheated me!” But you ask, “What do you mean? When did we ever cheat you?” “You have cheated me of the tithes and offerings due to me. You are under a curse, for your whole nation has been cheating me.”

If I don't tithe, I'm cheating God

Blessed business

Malachi 3:10-12

Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this,” says the LORD Almighty, “and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it.” I will prevent pests from devouring your crops...says the LORD Almighty. “Then all the nations will call you blessed...”

90% with God's blessing is far more than 100% without it

Skittles

“That's the Old Testament”

Tithing is an Old Testament principle...we are no longer under the Law

Let's get into what Jesus said

Matthew 5:17-19

"Don't misunderstand why I have come. I did not come to abolish the law of Moses or the writings of the prophets. No, I came to accomplish their purpose. I tell you the truth, until heaven and earth disappear, not even the smallest detail of God's law will disappear until its purpose is achieved. So if you ignore the least commandment and teach others to do the same, you will be called the least in the Kingdom of Heaven. But anyone who obeys God's laws and teaches them will be called great in the Kingdom of Heaven.

He goes on to teach how much more is expected of us that are not under the Law

Matthew 5

"You have heard that our ancestors were told, 'You must not murder. If you commit murder, you are subject to judgment.'

But I say, if you are even angry with someone, you are subject to judgment! If you call someone an idiot, you are in danger of being brought before the court. And if you curse someone, you are in danger of the fires of hell.

"You have heard the commandment that says, 'You must not commit adultery.' But I say, anyone who even looks at a woman with lust has already committed adultery with her in his heart.

"You have heard the law that says, 'A man can divorce his wife by merely giving her a written notice of divorce.' But I say that a man who divorces his wife, unless she has been unfaithful, causes her to commit adultery. And anyone who marries a divorced woman also commits adultery.

"You have heard the law that says the punishment must match the injury: 'An eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth.' But I say, do not resist an evil person! If someone slaps you on the right cheek, offer the other cheek also. If you are sued in court and your shirt is taken from you, give your coat, too. If a soldier demands that you carry his gear for a mile, carry it two miles. Give to those who ask, and don't turn away from those who want to borrow.

"You have heard the law that says, 'Love your neighbor' and hate your enemy. But I say, love your enemies! Pray for those who persecute you! In that way, you will be acting as true children of your Father in heaven. For he gives his sunlight to both the evil and the good, and he sends rain on the just and the unjust alike. If you love only those who love you, what reward is there for that? Even corrupt tax collectors do that much. If you are kind only to your friends, how are you different from anyone else? Even pagans do that. But you are to be holy, even as your Father in heaven is holy.

I'm not under the law!!!

Much more is expected of us...

2 things stop us from giving

We think we shouldn't or we think we can't

Luke 21:1-4

While Jesus was in the Temple, he watched the rich people dropping their gifts in the collection box. Then a poor widow came by and dropped in two small coins. "I tell you the truth," Jesus said, "this poor widow has given more than all the rest of them. For they have given a tiny part of their surplus, but she, poor as she is, has given everything she has."

The Law was the easy way

The early Christians got it...

2 Corinthians 8:1-9

You know the generous grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. Though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that by his poverty he could make you rich.

We have an awesome example in Jesus who was rich but became poor so that we could become rich in knowing God

As followers of Christ that same desire should be in us

2 Corinthians 9:6-7

Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

We will not be passing the bucket by again because we do not want you to give out of compulsion

God is most concerned about your heart and He loves it when you cheerfully give

The more He gives you the more you can give Him

We have prayed and prayed here that God would financially bless faithful givers so that the kingdom can be extended in our area

We heard about a couple last week that had more than \$1 million flow through their hands

What if?

You gave me 5 more skittles?

I would feel like you really trusted me and loved me

I am not going to give you more money for more Skittles if you are not even giving on the little bit that I did give you

What if you showed the Lord that you loved Him and trusted Him?