

TITHING HAS BEEN REPLACED BY GENEROSITY IN THE NEW TESTAMENT

Money [the collection] mentioned 13 x in II Corinthians chapter 8:
verses 2,3,7,8,9,11,12,14,15,17,19,20,24

I Corinthians 8.1-9 Poor but generous Macedonians, an example of the church's generosity

- 8.1 \$\$ Macedonian deep poverty didn't limit their generosity Rom 15.25-28
Giving is a grace (6X): I Cor 8.1,6,7,19 I Cor 9.8,14
grace, *καρις*, (charis) i.e. intangible blessings in exchange for cash
Acts 24.17, Paul eventually showed up in Jerusalem with famine-relief gift
How much grace have I allowed God to dump on me because of my sacrificial giving?
- 8.2,3 \$\$ believers in deep poverty gave sacrificially, beyond their ability
They couldn't give much, but their generosity was written in divine ink for 2,000 years.
8.2 they gave "out of their ordeal of affliction"
EX: Sam Levinson's mom, "There is always enough to give to the needy."
* I'm told that if only welfare recipients would tithe to the church, giving would double in USA.
Mark 12.41-44 the widow's mite
I John 3.17,18 cash demonstrates love, *love others AS yourself*
Jas 2.16 be warmed and filled = false love
- 8.4 \$\$ gift, *καριν*, (karin) = grace
praying = asking, pleading for the privilege
Do I ask God to provide more cash so that I can be more generous? Eph 4. 28
- 8.5 first gave themselves, How have you ever proved that your wallet belongs to God?
The once-for-all public declaration, Balancing the Christian Life, chap #7, Chas. Ryrice
Example: my own commitment in May 1954, Missionary Conference, *pjm*

8.8-15 Get your offering ready

- 8.7 \$\$ abound in everything
abound in this grace also, i.e. the cash gift you promised
- 8.8 \$\$ prove the sincerity of . . . the promise of your . . . your love [toward God] . . . gift, follow their example
- 8.9 \$\$ Christ is our model of generosity
He laid aside His glory, Phil 2.5-11
The most expensive gift ever given cost the giver His life. John 3.16
- 8.10 \$\$ Corinth had made a Faith Promise a year ago, I Cor 16.1-4
Titus was coming back, probably carrying this letter, to collect the offering before Paul's arrival, so that they wouldn't be embarrassed if Paul brought some of the impoverished Macedonian brothers along
- 8.11 \$\$ take up the offering which you said you would
- 8.12 \$\$ according to that a man hath, give proportionately to your income
THE TITHE HAS BEEN ABANDONED! *This is a new concept to the "keepers of the Law."*
- 8.14 \$\$ abundance of cash vs abundance of joy
- 8.15 \$\$ he that gathered little had no lack It is God's job to see that you never lack
Phil 4.19 "My God shall supply all your need
American Christians, by and large, have an **extremely hard time embracing this** all the way to the bone, but I have met a few.
As you know, the Lord has graciously sent 9 children into our marriage. We enjoyed each child as he or she came and we simply looked forward to seeing others. In cooperation with God's desire to bless the entire world with godly children, we welcomed each child.
As you might expect, many people have engaged me in bringing up the subject of birth control.
No matter what we discussed, THE VERY FIRST OBJECTION AGAINST HAVING A LARGE FAMILY IS ALMOST ALWAYS. . . MONEY! So, when others mention finances first I often point out that Americans almost always bring it up in our conversations. Their reply then was always the same, "Well, that's just one of the questions I had."
"Yes," I say, "but money was the very first obstacle which came to your mind. You are a typical American Christian."

8.19-24 Money is one proof of love

- 8.19 \$\$ giving is a grace
ready mind, *All your money belongs to God, but it doesn't all belong in the plate when it comes around. Decide before you go to church how much you will give.*
- 8.20 abundance *How often do I get excited about seeing how generous God is going to be if my wallet belongs to Him?*
- 8.24 \$\$ your checkbook is the = proof of your love

9.1-5 You promised a big offering

- 9.2 \$\$ generosity encourages generosity
Are there people who are thanking God for your generosity, perhaps even anonymously?
Corinth's infectious zeal might affect many other believers
Ecc 9.10 whatever thine hand findeth to do, do it with thy might
I Cor 15.58 always abounding in the work of the Lord.
- 9.5 \$\$ Your faith promise is due, please. You will give bountifully, won't you?

9.6-15 Pay what you promised

- Results of generosity
\$\$ Others can pay their bills and buy food, v.12
\$\$ You get a chance to serve, 9.12
\$\$ God gets thanked, v.12
\$\$ God gets glory, v.13
\$\$ You get prayed for, v.14
- 9.6 \$\$ You reap what you sow, Gal 6.7
Although all missionaries could use more money, not all missionaries or ministries are equally dependable. Yes, they are all honest, that's not what I mean; but some might be lazy or just foolish with excess cash.
- 9.7 \$\$ Acts 20.35 blessed = more blessed to give than to receive
purposed = budgeted on the first day of the week. . . according as he purposeth in his heart (no specific %)
not by compulsion, although it's true Paul is applying a bit of pressure
cheerfully, Gr. *hilasterion*, *ηλιαστεριον*, hilarious giving
Maybe Corinth wasn't emptying out their pockets with as much fun as the Macedonians had.
Chuckle when you give.
Learn to live with open hands
- 9.8 \$\$ all sufficiency, all grace, everything, every good deed
- 9.9 \$\$ giving to the poor = a righteous deed [*even without a tax write-off*]
Ps 112.5 good man. . . lendeth to the poor [*give expecting nothing in return*]
- 9.10 \$\$ He gives seed for the sowing,
Learn to pray for money to give away.
Eph 4.28 Thieves have to learn to find work **so that** they have money
A thief needs to learn to) work. . .that he may have that (money) to give to him that needeth.
You may have to find extra work so that you have money to give away.
Then watch for it! It may come to you through:
* *items on sale and you save \$6*
* *things you decided you didn't have to buy or could fix yourself*
* *outright gifts*
* *used instead of new*
* *part time job*
* *coupons*
- I believe it is easier to give generously **when we have less.**
Studies have shown many times that the poor give a greater percentage to their churches than the rich.
Learn to pray [*in faith*] for money to give away.
- 9.11 giving produces thanksgiving in your own heart
- 9.12 abundant = overflowing
Phil 4.11 "*I know how to abound*" *Are we as careful with a nickel when we only have one nickel as we are when we have an extra hundred dollars in our pocket, or a thousand dollars in the bank?*
- 9.14 When you give, you encourage others to pray for you, even if it's anonymously.
- 9.15 And all this to remind us of His unspeakable gift!
God was as generous as He could possibly be.

The OT tithe was collected several time a year.

1. The Levitical or sacred tithe, Numbers 18.21, 24
2. The tithe of the feasts, Deut 14.22-27
3. The tithe for the poor, Deut 14.28,29

Josephus mentions three tithes, Antiquities iv. 240

The Abrahamic tithe was only an offering of the once-in-a-lifetime plunder of spoils.

Gen 14.18-20

There seems not to be a connection to the Mosaic tithe.