

**BAHRAIN REFORMED BAPTIST CHURCH**  
**CCCCG: Church Giving 2**

**April 19, 2024**

**Preliminary**

Note: The Bible teaches to worship God only in the way that He prescribes in Scripture.

**Two Sides of Worship**

- (a) Worship through the means of the prescribed ordinances constitute the Church's public worship ... i.e. Bible reading (1 Tim 4:13); Praying (Mt 21:13); Singning of Psalms and Hymns (Mt 26:30; Eph 5:19; Col 3:16; cf. 1 Cor 14:26; Ps 45:1); Celebrating the Baptism and Lord's Supper (Mt 28:19; Act 2:38-39; 1 Cor 11:23-26; Col 2:11-12); The public reading of confessions, creeds, catechisms, and covenant (Ti 2:1; 1 Tim 3:16)
- (b) All of Christian living is worship... Rom 12:1; 1 Cor 10:31; Col 3:17

Point: While we are to give heartily unto the Lord and his ministry, yet as monetary collections are not part of corporate worship in Scripture, yet, it is also a part of worship through Christian living.

**Scripture Presentation**

**Old Testament Generally**

Note: Money cannot redeem our souls from our sins... Ps. 49:6-8

Point: God did not require money as a *worship-offering* from the Israelites in the regular, public worship of His OT Church.

- God required his people to come to Him through the offerings of symbolic animal sacrifices which pictured Christ's blood and death... Lev 1-5; Gen 28:22
- Food offerings were specifically appointed in detail by God as to how they were to be done before they offer it to God.
  - Food offerings symbolizes our familiar, meal-fellowship with the Lord and spiritual peace, reconciliation and communion with Him – Cf. Lord's Table
  - The produce of the ground was to offered , or the fruit of man's labor, would not be accepted if it was offered in detailed recipe... e.g. Lev. 6:15,20-21

Special Note: Abraham gave a tenth of his war spoils to Melchizedek, yet none of these passages speak of the 'tithes' given as 'worship' – Gen 14:20; Heb 7:1ff

- Rather than being part of the worship, money through the OT was contributed and collected in chests at the entrances to the Temple and synagogues...

Texts: 2 Kn. 12:9-10; 2 Chron. 24:8-11; Mk. 12:41-44; Mt. 6:2

[Travis Fentiman, *Offering is not an Element of Worship*] – "This method of collecting the monetary contributions, according to the passages, was at the prudent appointment of the king (a man), which demonstrates that the particular method used was an indifferent circumstance '*ordered by the light of nature and Christian prudence, according to the general rules of the Word*' (WCF 1.6; BCF I.6), rather than the method of collection being religiously significant with its particulars being appointed by God (which would make them a *substantial* part of worship, perpetual and unchangeable)."

**The New Testament Generally**

Note: Believers are no longer under the Mosaic covenant...

Texts: Rom 6:14-15; 7:5-6; Gal 3:15-4:7; 2 Cor 3:4-8

*Gal. 2:18 = For if I rebuild what I tore down, I prove myself to be a transgressor*

[ibid] – "The book of Hebrews says that all Levitical, Temple ceremonies and especially the animal sacrifices (which were typical of Christ), have been abrogated by Christ's coming (chs. 8-10), as Christ offered Himself as a sacrifice to God through the Spirit for us (9:14; 10:12). Hence, the sacrificial offerings, which were elements of worship in the Temple services, have ceased, and yet the moral obligation of the *indifferent collections* made apart from the Temple worship continue."

- (a) Tithes were given to the Levites and priests, but there are no more Levites and priests in the New Covenant

Note: Now all believers are priests... 1 Pet. 2:9; Rev. 1:6; 5:10; 20:6

- (b) The tithe is tied to the land Israel received under the Old Covenant

Point: Believers are not of earthly Jerusalem but part of the heavenly Jerusalem... Gal. 4:25, 26

- (c) In the Apostolic history, the disciples did not offer money to God as worship; rather, they laid the money down at the apostles feet to be distributed to the poor by them, on any given day of the week... Act 4:34-5:2

➤ Or every Lords Day... 1 Cor 16:1-3

Note: There is no evidence in 1 Cor. 16:1-3 that this laying up was an act of their worship to God – This is a contribution for the donation to Jerusalem.

- (d) Tithing is not mention in any instructions to the Church, although much is said about giving...

➤ Generous grace giving is the NT standard... 2 Cor 9:6-7; 11-12

- (e) Tithing puts the wrong emphasis upon giving

[Steven J. Cole] – "Tithing emphasizes your obligation to God; New Testament giving, as we shall see, emphasizes your willing, loving response to God's grace. Furthermore, tithing limits giving by making a person feel that he has paid his dues (so to speak) and thus nothing more is required, when, in fact, much more could be done. Tithing has a tendency to put a person on a legal basis with God, rather than a love relationship. It's the wrong emphasis."

***"Christian giving is to be marked by self-sacrifice and self-forgetfulness,  
not by self-congratulation."***

– John Stott

***"When a man becomes a Christian,  
he becomes industrious, trustworthy and prosperous.  
Now, if that man when he gets all he can and saves all he can,  
(and) does not give all he can,  
I have more hope for Judas Iscariot than for that man!"***

- John Wesley