

Does God want me rich (TITHING)?

1. I Timothy 6:3-5: *“If anyone teaches false doctrines and does not agree to the sound instruction of our Lord Jesus Christ and to Godly teaching, he is conceited and understands nothing. He has an unhealthy interest in controversies and arguments that result in envy, quarreling, malicious talk, evil suspicions, and constant friction between men of corrupt mind, who have been robbed of the Truth and who think that godliness is a means to financial gain.”*

A. The only one in the New Testament who promised financial gain here on earth if you would worship them... was the Devil! Luke 4:5-8: *“The Devil led Jesus up to a high place and showed Him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. And he said to Jesus, ‘I will give you all their authority and splendor, for it has been given to me, and I can give it to anyone I want to. So if you worship me (Satan), it will all be yours!’*

(1) According to the New Testament, God gave Satan (not Jesus) the authority to make people on this earth rich!

(2) I John 5:19, II Corinthians 4:4, John 12:31; 14:30; 16:11 all confirm that Satan is in control of this world’s power and wealth!

B. Remember, II Corinthians 2:17 says: *“Unlike so many, we do not peddle the Word of God for profit.”*

C. And II Peter 2:1-3;13-22 says: *“But there were also false prophets among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you...Many will follow their shameful ways and will bring the way of the Truth into disrepute. In their greed these teachers will exploit you with stories they have made up...they are experts in greed — an accursed brood! They have left the straight way and wandered off to follow the way of Balaam son of Beor, who loved the wages of wickedness.”*

(1) Numbers 22-31:8-16 tells how Balaam, God’s prophet, betrayed God’s people, by accepting a large sum of money from their enemy, Balak, King of Moab. Balak paid Balaam to prophecy false teachings from God, which would cause Israel to disobey God’s true commands, and lead them to sin against their God. Balak knew that if he could get Israel to sin against their God, He would punish and curse them instead of protecting them. In this way, Balak could finally defeat Israel. Balaam ended up taking the money, and prophesying false doctrines or instructions from God, which indeed led Israel into sin, and God then cursed them and handed them over to their enemy, Balak, King of Moab.

2. I Timothy 6:6-10 goes on to say: *“But godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it. But if we have food and clothing, we will be content with that. People who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge men into ruin and destruction. For*

the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.”

A. Philippians 4:11-20: *“...for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. **I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well-fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want.** I can do everything through Him who gives me strength. Yet it was good of you to share in my troubles. Moreover, as you Philippians know, in the early days of your acquaintance with the Gospel, when I set out from Macedonia, not one church shared with me in the matter of giving and receiving except you only; for even when I was in Thessalonica, you sent me aid again and again when I was in need. Not that I am looking for a gift, but I am looking for what may be credited to your account. I have received full payment and even more; I am amply supplied, now that I have received from Epaphroditus the gifts you have sent. They are a fragrant offering, an acceptable sacrifice, pleasing to God. **And my God will meet all your needs according to His riches in Christ Jesus.**”*

3. Matthew 6:19-23: *“**Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in Heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.**”*

A. Remember the rich fool in Luke 12:16-21: *“And Jesus told them this parable: ‘The ground of a certain rich man produced a good crop. He thought to himself, ‘What shall I do? I have no place to store my crops.’*

‘Then he said, ‘This is what I’ll do. I will tear down my barns and build bigger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. And I’ll say to myself, ‘You have plenty of good things laid up for many years. Take life easy; eat, drink and be merry.’

‘But God said to him, ‘You fool! This very night your life will be demanded from you. Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself?’

*‘**This is how it will be with anyone who stores things up for himself but is not rich toward God.**’”*

4. Matthew 6:24 goes on to say: *“No one can serve two masters, Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. **You cannot serve both God and Money (Why? Luke 4:5-8 tells us the Devil controls the “Money”)***

A. Remember the rich young ruler in Matthew 19:16-30: *“ Now a man came up to Jesus and asked, ‘Teacher, **what good thing must I do to get eternal life?**’*

‘Why do you ask Me about what is good?’ Jesus replied. ‘There is only One who is good. If you want to enter life, obey the commandments.’

‘Which ones?’ the man inquired.

Jesus replied, ‘Do not murder, do not commit adultery, do not steal, do not give false testimony, honor your father and mother,’ and ‘love your neighbor as yourself.’

‘All these I have kept,’ the young man said. ‘What do I still lack?’

Jesus answered, 'If you want to be perfect, go sell your possessions and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in Heaven. Then come, follow Me.'

When the young man heard this, he went away sad, because he had great wealth.

Then Jesus said to His disciples, 'I tell you the truth, it is hard for a rich man to enter the Kingdom of Heaven. Again I tell you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the Kingdom of God.'

When the disciples heard this, they were greatly astonished and asked, 'Who then can be saved?'

Jesus looked at them and said, 'With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible' (including a rich man getting to Heaven)."

5. So, Matthew 6:25-34 concludes: *"Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more important than food, and the body more important than clothes? Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to his life?"*

And why do you worry about your clothes? See how the lilies of the field grow. They do not labor or spin. Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these. If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For the pagans run after these things, and your heavenly Father knows you need them. But seek first His Kingdom and His righteousness (which, Jesus told us in Matthew 28:18-29, was to: "Go, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you."), and all these things will be given to you as well. Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own."

6. Jesus commands Christians in Luke 6:38 to: *"Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you."* **But, what is considered a good "measure"?**

A. Luke 21:1-4: *"As He looked up, Jesus saw the rich putting their gifts into the temple treasury. He also saw a poor widow put in two very small copper coins. 'I tell you the truth,' He said, 'this poor widow has put in more than all the others. All these people gave their gifts out of their wealth; but she out of her poverty put in all she had to live on'."* **Jesus judges how much you give according to what you have left after you've given!**

B. So, does the Lord expect me to give everything I have?

(1) I Corinthians 16:1,2 says our giving should be "a sum of money in keeping with our income."

(2) So, how do I determine what that “*sum of money*” is?

7. God said His people owe Him a tenth or tithe of all that He gives them!

A. Tithing started with **Abraham** (the father of all God’s people), according to **Genesis 14:17-20**: “...*then Abram gave him (Melchizedek, the first High Priest of God) a tenth of everything.*”

B. Tithing was then passed down through Abraham’s family to **Jacob** (the father of the 12 tribes of Israel), who promised God in **Genesis 28:22**: “...*and all that you give me I will give you a tenth (tithe).*”

C. As a result, tithing was made into Law for the 12 tribes of Israel according to Leviticus 27:30-34: “*A tithe (tenth) of everything from the land (Israel), whether grain from the soil or fruit from the trees, belongs to the Lord; it is holy to the Lord. If a man redeems any of his tithe, he must add a fifth of the value to it. The entire tithe of the herd and flock — every tenth animal that passes under the shepherd’s rod — will be holy to the Lord. He must not pick out the good from the bad or make any substitution. If he does make a substitution, both the animal and its substitute become holy and cannot be redeemed. These are the commands the Lord gave Moses on Mount Sinai for the Israelites.*”

D. The 13th tribe of Israel (Levi) was where all the priests (Preachers) came from. According to Numbers 18:21: “*I (God) give to the Levites all the tithes in Israel as their inheritance (pay) in return for the work they do (full time Ministry)...*” However, God tells Moses to tell the Levites (Preachers, Pastors or Ministers today) in **verse 26**: “*Speak to the Levites and say to them: ‘When you receive from the Israelites (Church) the tithe I give you as your inheritance (salary), you must present a tenth (tithe) of that tithe (your salary) as the Lord’s offering.’*” **So, Preachers — practice what you preach!**

E. When God’s people refused to give God His 10% (tithe), God withdrew His blessings from them. This is why both Israel and Judah (Jews) were destroyed by the Assyrians and Babylonians, and taken away into exile. When they finally repented and asked God what they needed to do for God to return to them; God answered in the last book of the Old Testament — **Malachai 3:6-8**: “*Will a man rob God? Yet you rob Me! But you ask, How do we rob You? In tithes (God’s 10%) and offerings (anything above a tithe). You are under a curse — the whole nation of you — because you are robbing Me (not giving God His 10%)! Bring the whole tithe (10% of everything God gives us)...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 (not necessarily money) that you will not have enough room for it.*”

F. Jesus said, even in the New Testament, that God’s people should continue to give Him His 10% (tithe) according to Matthew 23:23 and Luke 11:42.

G. This is why the Jewish Christians were told to stop giving God's 10% or tithe to the Old Testament priests (from the tribe of Levi), and start giving it to Jesus (through His Church), who was like the original High Priest (Melchizedek), who received the first tithe from Abraham, before Aaron and the priestly tribe of Levi were even born.

Hebrews 6:20-8:13: "...He (Jesus) has become a High Priest, forever, just like Melchizedek (see 7. A.). This Melchizedek was **king of Salem** (later called **Jerusalem**) and a priest of God Most High. He met Abraham returning from the defeat of the kings and blessed him, and Abraham gave him a tenth (tithe) of everything (**Genesis 14:17-20**). First, his name means '**king of righteousness**'; then also, '**king of Salem**' means '**king of peace**' (all these titles were given to Jesus as well). **Without father or mother, without beginning of days or end of life, like the Son of God he remains a priest forever** (either Melchizedek and Jesus are one in the same, or they are equal in authority as God's High Priest who collects God's tithe or 10%).

Just think how great he was: Even the patriarch Abraham gave him a tenth of the plunder (that belonged to God)! Now the Law (Old Testament) requires the descendants of Levi (13th tribe of Israel) who become priests to collect a tenth (God's tithe) from the people — that is, their brothers — even though their brothers are descended from Abraham (not Levi). This man, however, did not trace his descent from Levi (as all priests must be able to do), yet he collected a tenth from Abraham and blessed him who had the promises (that He would be the father of all God's people). And without doubt the lesser person is blessed by the greater (proving that, since Melchizedek blessed Abraham, he was greater than even Abraham, who was the father of all Israel, including Levi where all the priests came from). In the one case, the tenth is collected by men who die (all the descendants of Levi died, including their first High Priest, Aaron); but in the other case, by him (Melchizedek) who is declared to be living ('like the Son of God'). One might even say that Levi (father of all priests), who collects the tenth, paid the tenth through Abraham, because when Melchizedek met Abraham, Levi was still in the body of his ancestor (Abraham had not yet given life to his son Isaac, who gave life to his son Jacob, who gave life to his son Levi).

If perfection could have been attained through the Levitical priesthood (for on the basis of it the Law was given to the people), why was there still need for another priest to come — one like Melchizedek, not like Aaron (first High Priest of the Old Testament Law given to Moses)? For when there is a change of the priesthood, there must also be a change of the Law (as in the New Testament under the new High Priest — Jesus Christ). He of whom these things are said belonged to a different tribe, and no one from that tribe ever served at the altar. For it is clear that our Lord descended from Judah, and in regard to that tribe Moses said nothing about priests. And what we have said is even more clear if another priest like Melchizedek appears, one who has become a priest not on the basis of a regulation as to his ancestry (as the Old Testament Law given to Moses said all priests must come from the tribe of Levi), but on the basis of the power of an indestructible life. For it is declared:

'You are a priest forever, just like Melchizedek' (every Jew knew this was a prophecy of the Messiah in **Psalm 110:4**).

The former regulation (Old Testament that said the tithe must only be collected by

a priest who is a descendant of Levi) *is set aside because it was weak and useless (for the Law made nothing perfect), and a better hope is introduced, by which we draw near to God.*

And it was not without an oath! Others became priests without any oath, but He became a priest with an oath when God said to Him:

'The Lord has sworn and will not change His mind, 'You are a priest forever.'

Because of this oath (Psalm 110:4), Jesus has become the guarantee of a better covenant (New Testament).

Now there were many of those priests, since death prevented them from continuing in office; but because Jesus lives forever, He has a permanent priesthood (and He will always collect God's 10% or tithe). Therefore He is able to save completely those who come to God through Him, because He always lives to intercede for them (Christians, not Jews).

(1) SO, WE GIVE GOD HIS 10% OR TITHE IN THE NAME OF JESUS, OUR HIGH PRIEST, TO FURTHER HIS KINGDOM (CHRISTIANITY, AND THE NEW TESTAMENT)

8. How did the early Church give Jesus God's tithe or 10%?

A. I Corinthians 16:1,2: *"Now about the collection for God's people: Do what I told the Galatian churches to do. On the first day of every week (Sunday), each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with his income (this is why God asked for 10% of your income, and not a set amount. If your income went up, so did your giving; but if your income went down, so did your giving), saving it up, so that when I come no collections will have to be made. Then, when I arrive, I will give letters of introduction to the men you approve and send them with your gift to Jerusalem."*

(1) Why didn't Paul just tell them to tithe? Because he wasn't asking for the whole tithe. They had to have money for their own churches as well. This was what most churches call a "faith promise" to collect a special offering to be given to the Church in Jerusalem that was currently under a famine, and could not support themselves (*Acts 11:28*).

B. Later in Paul's second letter to the Church in Corinth he wrote in *II Corinthians 6:10* that he was **"poor, yet making many rich; having nothing, and yet possessing everything."** Was he making the Christians in Jerusalem materially rich by collecting all this money for them from all these churches?

(1) *In chapter 8:1-7 he even seems to be taking the last dime from poor Churches to make these people in Jerusalem rich: "And now brothers, we want you to know about the grace that God has given the Macedonian churches. Out of the most severe trial, their overflowing joy, and their extreme poverty welled up in rich generosity. For I testify that they gave as much as they were able, and*

even beyond their ability (so, should we be maxing out our credit cards for the Lord?). *Entirely on their own, they urgently pleaded with us for the privilege of sharing in this service to the saints (in Jerusalem). And they did not do as we expected, but they gave themselves first to the Lord and then to us in keeping with God's will. So, we urged Titus, since he had earlier made a beginning (he started this faith promise offering in Corinth the year before), to bring also to completion this act of grace on your part. But just as you excel in everything — in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in your love for us — see that you also excel in this grace of giving.*

(2) But, Paul continues in verses 8-9 to explain: *“I am not commanding you, but I want to test the sincerity of your love by comparing it with the earnestness of others. For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, so that you through His poverty might become rich.”*

(3) Neither Paul nor Jesus made the Jerusalem Church, or the Macedonian Churches materially rich. As a matter of fact, it was made clear that Jesus, Paul, and these Churches were in “*extreme poverty*,” “*poor*,” and “*had nothing!*” So, were they promising material wealth in this world? **Or, were they promising spiritual wealth, such as immortality, in a paradise called Heaven?**

C. Paul continues his plea for the Christians in Jerusalem in II Corinthians 8:10-15: *“And here is my advice about what is best for you in this matter: Last year (when Titus started their faith promise for the Church in Jerusalem) you were the first not only to give but also to have the desire to do so. Now finish the work, so that your eager willingness to do it may be matched by your completion of it, according to your means. For if the willingness is there, the gift is acceptable according to what one has, not according to what he does not have (No, do not max out your credit card!).*

Our desire is not that others might be relieved while you are hard pressed, but that there might be equality. At the present time your plenty will supply what they need, so that in turn their plenty will supply what you need. Then there will be equality. As it is written: ‘He that gathered much did not have too much, and he that gathered little did not have too little’ (Exodus 16:18).

D. Paul concludes his instructions on giving with II Corinthians 9:6-15: *“Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver (but, remember, in 8:10-15, he told us the gift was acceptable only if you had the money to give). And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need (not all that you want), you will abound in every good work. As it is written:*

‘He has scattered abroad His gifts to the poor; His righteousness endures for ever’ (Psalm 112:9).

Now He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness. You will be made rich in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God.

This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of God's people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God. Because of the service by which you have proved yourselves, men will praise God for the obedience that accompanies our confession of the Gospel of Christ, and for your generosity in sharing with them and with everyone else. And in their prayers for you their hearts will go out to you, because of the surpassing grace God has given you. Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!

9. So, why weren't the Christians in Jerusalem rich? They "sowed generously" according to **Acts 4:32-35**, yet they're starving because of a famine! The Macedonian churches gave "beyond their ability," and yet were in "extreme poverty," according to **II Corinthians 8:2!** And the Apostle Paul, and Jesus, Himself, "had nothing," according to **II Corinthians 6:10; 8:8,9!** NONE OF THEM WERE RICH, YET THEY WERE ALL PROMISED "**YOU WILL BE MADE RICH IN EVERY WAY**" (**II CORINTHIANS 9:11!**)

A. When you sow seed, you're not rich until it grows, matures, and you harvest the crop. After you harvest the crop, you plant new seed, and have to wait until that seed grows, and matures before you can harvest it. The Corinthian Church is enjoying the benefits of a harvest, while the Jerusalem has just planted seed, and the Macedonian churches have only a little of last year's harvest left.

B. According to Jesus' Parable of the Sower in **Luke 8:11**: "**The seed is the Word of God.**" NOT MONEY! And the "**harvest,**" according to **Luke 8:15**, is people who hear the **seed** you **planted** in them, and become faithful Christians!

C. The Church in Jerusalem planted the first seeds of the "Word of God" into the hearts of people from "every nation of the world," according to Acts 2:5; and their seed grew and matured into thousands of Christians who enjoyed a harvest. Acts 4:32-34 says: "all the believers were one in heart and mind. No one claimed any of his possessions was his own, but they shared everything they had. With great power the Apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and much grace was with them all. There were no needy persons among them."

D. The Church continued to plant "**seed**" or the "**Word of God**" into more and more people until **Acts 8:1-4** tells us "**a great persecution broke out against the church at Jerusalem, and all (with the "seed" sown in them) except the Apostles were scattered...Those who had been scattered (as the seed in Jesus' Parable of the Sower depicts) preached the word (planting more "seed") wherever they went.**"

E. While the Apostles are planting new seed into new people (trying to grow a new crop of Christians in the Jerusalem field), a famine breaks out according to Acts 11:28,

which would have wiped out the Church in Jerusalem, except that they had *seed* scattered in fields all over the world that were growing and maturing. As a result of their planting *seed* all over the world, their *seed* has now grown and matured in several churches who are now sending them their *harvest*. **One of those fields was Corinth.**

F. So, while Jerusalem waited for the new *seeds* to grow and mature that they planted in Jerusalem, they harvested the *seeds* that they had planted years before, that had now matured and was being harvested in Corinth (and other Churches). As Paul told the Church in Corinth in ***II Corinthians 8:14***: “***At the present time your plenty will supply what they (Jerusalem) need, so that in turn their plenty will supply what you need.***”

10. So, give to those in need — it will be like giving to Jesus Himself.

A. *Matthew 25:40*: “*I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for Me (Jesus).*”

B. But remember Jesus’ warning in *Matthew 6:1-4*: “*Be careful not to do your acts of righteousness before men, to be seen by them. If you do, you will have no reward from your Father in Heaven.*

So when you give to the needy, do not announce it with trumpets, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and on the streets, to be honored by men. I tell you the truth, they have received their reward in full. But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your giving may be in secret. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.”

11. Remember, when Paul wrote in *II Corinthians 8:9*: “*...that though our Lord Jesus Christ was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, so that you through His poverty might become rich*” — **HE WAS NOT TALKING ABOUT HERE ON EARTH — HE WAS TALKING ABOUT IN HEAVEN — WHERE HE WAS RICH!**

A. *JOHN 14:1-3*: “*Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in Me. There are many rooms in my Father’s house (Heaven); otherwise, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you (in Heaven, not on Earth). And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with Me (in Heaven) that you also may be where I am.*

(1) *I CORINTHIANS 15:35-38*: “*But someone may ask, ‘How are the dead raised? With what kind of body will they come?’ How foolish! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. When you sow, you do not plant the body that will be, but just a seed, perhaps of wheat or something else. But God gives it a body as He has determined and to each kind of seed He gives its own body*

(2) But you don’t harvest all the riches from the seed you planted on this earth until you die and go to Heaven.

B. CHRIST NEVER PROMISED YOU RICHES ON THIS EARTH — SATAN DID!

(1) LUKE 4:5-8: “The Devil led Jesus up to a high place and showed Him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. And he said to Him, ‘I will give you all their authority and splendor (material wealth here on earth), for it has been given to me (Satan, not Jesus), and I can give it to anyone I want to. So if you worship me (Satan, not Jesus), it will all be yours.’”

C. But Jesus did promise he would take care of your “NEEDS” while you’re on this earth.

*(1) MATTHEW 6:25-34: “...So do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ For the pagans run after all these things (wanting to be rich here on earth), and your heavenly Father knows that you **need** them. But seek first His Kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.”*

D. Those who believe God wants us to be rich here on earth, have, according to I TIMOTHY 6:5, “been robbed of the Truth and who think that godliness (being a Christian) is a means to financial gain (here on Earth).”

E. Instead, we should be “CONTENT” with whatever God gives us.

*(1) I TIMOTHY 6:6-10: “But godliness (being a Christian) with **contentment** is great gain. For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it. But if we have food and clothing (our needs), we will be content with that. People who want to get rich fall into a trap (set by the Devil) and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge men into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.”*

12. REMEMBER GALATIANS 6:7-10: “...A man **reaps** what he sows. The one who sows to please his sinful nature, from that nature will reap destruction; **the one who sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life (in Heaven, not Earth).** Let us not become weary in doing good (sowing seed), for at the proper time we will **reap a harvest** (in Heaven) if we do not give up. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good (plant seed) to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers (our brothers and sisters in Christ).”

A. So, where are you planting Christ’s money (the tithe or 10% of your income) He gave you? You say He never gave you any of His money? Sure He did! 10% of all the money you make from your job, or receive in any way is the Lord’s! It is only because of the Lord that you receive anything at all! How do you think you got the job, or the raise, or promotion, or gift? **GOD GAVE YOU ALL THE MONEY YOU HAVE, AND 10% OF THAT MONEY BELONGS TO CHRIST, AND HE EXPECTS YOU TO INVEST**

HIS MONEY INTO HIS KINGDOM...NOT YOUR OWN (Matthew 6:33)!

B. Read Matthew 25:14-30 (Parable of the talents):

“*Again, it will be like a man going on a journey* (when Christ ascended back into Heaven), *who called his servants* (Christians) *and entrusted his* (Christ’s) *property* (Kingdom) *to them* (which would be the Tithe, or 10% of everything Christians have). *To one he gave five talents* (a talent is a piece of silver worth about \$1,000...so he gave him \$5,000), *to another two talents, and to another one talent, each according to his ability* (10% of what they were able to make according to their ability or job skills). *Then he* (Christ) *went on his journey* (to Heaven, to prepare a place for us).”

(1) Christ gave one man \$5,000, one man \$2,000, and another man \$1,000 of His money. We know that Christ’s money is the Tithe, which is 10% of everything He blesses us with. **So, in this parable, he is not talking about 100% of these men’s income (which he gave them according to their ability or job skills). He is only talking about His 10% (or The Tithe), which he expected them to invest for Him while He was gone, to strengthen His Kingdom (not theirs).** LET ME EXPLAIN:

(a) If the first man had the ability or job skills to make \$50,000 a year; 10% (or the Tithe) of all he made would belong to His Lord and Master — which would be \$5,000! He could spend \$45,000 on his own needs; but he could only invest His Master’s money (The Tithe, or 10% — \$5,000) on building His Master’s Kingdom (NOT HIS OWN!)

(b) If the second man had the ability or job skills to make \$20,000 a year; 10% (or the Tithe) that belonged to Christ would be \$2,000! He could spend \$18,000 on himself and his needs; but he must invest Christ’s 10% (\$2,000) on Christ’s Kingdom.

(c) If the third man had the ability or job skills to make only \$10,000 a year, 10% (or the Tithe) that belonged to Christ would be \$1,000. He could spend \$9,000 on his own kingdom; but He must invest Christ’s Tithe (\$1,000) into Christ’s Kingdom!

C. Verse 16 continues the story:

“*The man who had received the five talents went at once and put his money to work* (investing it into Christ’s Kingdom) *and gained five more* (now he has ten). *So also, the one with the two talents gained two more* (now he has four). *But the man who had received the one talent went off, dug a hole in the ground and hid his master’s money.*” SO, LET’S BREAK IT DOWN:

(1) The first man in Christ’s story was given 5 talents or \$5,000 of the Lord’s money (which is the Tithe, or 10% of his income). This means God blessed him with \$50,000. He could keep \$45,000 for his own needs; but was required to

invest 10% (\$5,000) into the Lord's Kingdom, for the Lord's needs.

(2) Now we learn he has doubled Christ's money (The Tithe, or 10% of his entire income). This would mean that God blessed him for wisely investing Christ's money into Christ's Kingdom; and, God enabled him to double his own income (from \$50,000 to \$100,000)! Which is why he is now investing not just five talents (\$5,000)...but, now a total of ten talents (\$10,000) into Christ's Kingdom!

(3) Likewise, God blessed the second man for investing into Christ's Kingdom, and doubled his income from \$20,000 to \$40,000. And, as a result, the man doubled his tithe or 10% investment into the Christ's Kingdom (from \$2,000 to \$4,000)!

(4) The third man did not invest Christ's money (the one talent, or Tithe, or 10% of his income) into Christ's Kingdom, and, as a result, is still making \$10,000 (no blessing).

D. Now that we have a better understanding of this parable, let's continue with verses 19-30: *"After a long time the master (Christ) of those servants (Christians) returned (from Heaven back to Earth for the Judgment Day) and settled accounts with them. Then the man who had received the five talents brought the other five. 'Master,' he said, 'you entrusted me with five talents (a tenth or tithe of all my income). See, I have gained you five more (he's still tithing, even as his income is growing — MOST PEOPLE SAY THEY CAN NO LONGER AFFORD TO TITHE WHEN THEY MAKE TOO MUCH MONEY).*

*His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things (here on Earth); I will put you in charge of many things (in Heaven). Come (to Heaven with Me) and share your Master's happiness (remember, Jesus promised in **John 14:1-4** that He is preparing a place in Heaven for us)!'*

*Then **man with the two talents** also came. 'Master,' he said, 'you entrusted me with two talents; see, I have gained two more.'*

His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things (here on this Earth); I will put you in charge of many things (in Heaven). Come and share your master's happiness!'

*Then the **man who had received the one talent** came. 'Master,' he said, 'I knew that you are a hard man, harvesting where you have not sown and gathering where you have not scattered seed. So I was afraid and went out and hid your talent (he did not invest Christ's tithe or 10% into His Kingdom) in the ground. See, here is what belongs to you.'*

His master replied, 'You wicked, lazy servant (Christ expects us to invest His money in His Kingdom)! So you knew that I harvest where I have not sown and gather where I have not scattered seed? Well then, you should have put My money (The Tithe, or 10% of your income) on deposit with the bankers, so that when I returned I would have received it back with interest.

Take the talent from him and give it to the one who has the ten talents. For

everyone who has (Christ's money, tithe, or 10%) will be given more, and he will have an abundance. Whoever does not have (Christ's money, tithe or 10%), even what he has (the other 90% of his income) will be taken from him. And throw that worthless servant outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and grinding of teeth (Hell)'."

(1) REMEMBER TWO SCRIPTURES:

(a) Luke 6:38: "Give and it will be given to you; a good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will pour into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you."

(b) Luke 12:16-21: "And Jesus told them this parable: 'The ground of a certain rich man produced a good crop. He thought to himself, 'What shall I do? I have no place to store my crops.'

Then he said, 'This is what I will do. I will tear down my barns and build bigger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. And I'll say to myself, 'You have plenty of good things laid up for many years. Take life easy; eat, drink and be merry.'

But God said to him, 'You fool! This very night your life will be demanded from you. Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself?'

This is how it will be with anyone who stores up things for himself (his own kingdom), but is not rich toward God' (Christ's Kingdom)."

13. EVERYONE HAS SOME OF CHRIST'S MONEY (THE TITHE, OR 10% OF ANY AND ALL MONEY YOU HAVE), AND CHRIST HOLDS YOU RESPONSIBLE FOR MAKING A WISE INVESTMENT WITH HIS MONEY THAT WILL CONTINUE TO MAKE HIS KINGDOM GROW!

A. Christ's last command before He left this Earth and ascended back to Heaven to prepare a place for His servants is found in **Matthew 28:18-20**: *"Then Jesus came to them and said, 'All authority in Heaven and on Earth has been given to Me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I will be with you always, to the very end of the age.'"*

(1) No one, alone, can keep this command. We all can't personally go to *all the nations* of the Earth; and most cannot *teach everything Christ commanded*. So, you are responsible for finding Churches, missions, Preachers, teachers, or evangelists that can! **WHEN YOU FIND THE ONES WHO ARE OBEYING CHRIST'S LAST "GREAT COMMISSION," AND ARE CONTINUING TO MAKE CHRIST'S KINGDOM GROW STRONGER — INVEST CHRIST'S MONEY (TITHE, OR 10%)!**