

Tithing Is Not an Obligation Under the New Testament, Nor Is It a Sin

By [Robert D. Cook](#) | August 10, 2022 |



A tithe is a tenth. It was both given and paid under the Old Testament. [Genesis 14:18-20](#) records Abraham giving tithes to a priest of God named Melchizedek before the Law. [Leviticus 27:30-33](#) and [Malachi 3:10](#) record the Israelite obligation to pay tithes under the Law. As you read on, you will discover tithing is not an obligation under the New Testament, nor is it a sin. Just as Abraham tithed (gave a tenth) without obligation before the Law, any person may give tithes without obligation after the Law, if he purposes in his heart to do so ([2 Corinthians 9:7](#)).

Some Christians attempt to use Old Testament scriptures alone to advocate tithing under the New Testament, but Old Testament scriptures alone cannot establish New Testament doctrine. There must be New Testament scriptural support to substantiate New Testament doctrine.

There are no New Testament scriptures that set ten percent or any other specific amount or percentage as an “obligation” to pay, or requirement to give of one’s income. If you search the New Testament (the period after Jesus’ death, burial, resurrection, and ascension), you will not find any record or instance in which Jesus or any apostle, evangelist, prophet, pastor, or teacher advocates an “obligation” to pay tithes under the New Testament. There is only a retelling of Abraham paying a tithe to Melchizedek found in [Hebrews 7:1-10](#).

Apostle Paul would have certainly had to teach his Gentile converts that God expected them to pay tithes if there was an obligation to do so. Yet there is no biblical record or instance in any of Paul’s letters to the churches where he taught tithing. In the total absence of scriptural support for tithing under the New Testament, how can we conclude anything other than Paul did not teach it because it is no longer an obligation or a requirement.

Although tithing is not an obligation or requirement under the New Testament, it is not a sin to give a tenth (tithe) of one’s income to the Church, your local storehouse. So what are we to say about tithing today? It is not correct to say tithing (giving of a tenth) is not for today. The correct statement is tithing is not an obligation under the New Testament. You certainly may give a tenth (tithe) of your income if you purpose in

your heart to do so. [2 Corinthian 9:7](#) states, “So let each one give as he purposes in his heart...” Remember Abraham, being under no obligation to tithe, gave a tenth of the spoils to Melchizedek, the High Priest of God before the Law of Moses began ([Genesis 14:18-20](#)).

If you purpose in your heart to give a tenth (tithe), you may certainly expect a return according to the following verses:

“But this I say: He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver.” - 2 Corinthians 9:6-7

These verses encourage Believers to be bountiful givers. Bountiful means liberal, generous and abundant. The word of God promises that the liberal, generous, abundant, giver would reap according to the measure he has given. Although there is no obligation to pay a tenth (tithe) of one’s income under the New Testament, generosity should always be our goal in giving to the work of God.

In [Mark 7:13](#) Jesus warned that the traditions handed down by man make the word of God of no effect. We must bring every thought and tradition of man captive to the truth of the word of God. I challenge anyone who believes tithing is an obligation under the New Testament to locate New Testament scripture to support their belief; remembering that the New Testament does not begin with man’s division in the Bible, but after Jesus’ death, burial, resurrection, and ascension.

Ask yourself, “Where in the New Testament does anyone teach an obligation to tithe?”

Questions & Answers:

- What is the tithe? The tithe is literally a tenth portion of anything. It usually refers to a tenth of a person’s increase (income).
- Is tithing required under the New Testament? No
- Is there scriptural support in the New Testament to advocate an obligation to tithe? No, there is no scripture indicating that anyone taught tithing as an obligation after the New Testament took effect.
- Is it wrong to tithe under the New Testament? No
- Did tithing go out with the Law? No, tithing preexisted the law, existed under the Law, and continues to exist after the Law. The difference is that tithing was not an obligation before the Law, and it is not an obligation after the Law. The choice to tithe (give a tenth) has not gone out with the Law, no more than it came in with the Law.
- Is tithing for today? Yes, but not as an obligation. You may choose to tithe (give a tenth) of your income for the work of God.
- Should you tithe (give a tenth)? You may give less than a tithe, give a tithe, or give more than a tithe according to as you purpose in your heart. But be inspired in your giving by Apostle Paul’s words, “He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully.”

You are encouraged to continue your faithfulness in giving and to increase as your faith grows so that you might reap bountifully according to God’s marvelous promise. May God’s grace and peace be unto you.



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