

PRE-LAW TITHING Lesson

The two examples of PRE-LAW tithing in Genesis were one time events. They were voluntary and involved more than money. Abraham's example was a one-time tithe of the spoils of war. Hebrews 7;2 and Genesis 14;20.

Example 1----pre-law tithing

Heb 7:1-2

7:1 This Melchizedek was king of Salem and priest of God Most High. He met Abraham returning from the defeat of the kings and blessed him, 2 and Abraham gave him a tenth of everything. NIV

Gen 14:18-20

18 Then Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine. He was priest of God Most High, 19 and he blessed Abram, saying,

"Blessed be Abram by God Most High,

Creator of heaven and earth.

20 And blessed be God Most High,

who delivered your enemies into your hand."

Then Abram gave him a tenth of everything. NIV

Abraham had taken a vow not to keep ANYTHING of the spoils of that conflict. Gen.14;22-24

Gen 14:22-24

22 But Abram said to the king of Sodom, "I have raised my hand to the LORD, God Most High, Creator of heaven and earth, and have taken an oath 23 that I will accept nothing belonging to you, not even a thread or the thong of a sandal, so that you will never be able to say, 'I made Abram rich.' 24 I will accept nothing but what my men have eaten and the share

that belongs to the men who went with me--to Aner, Eshcol and Mamre. Let them have their share." NIV

- ❖ Abraham tithed to Melchizedek-----a pagan king
- ❖ Abraham gave the remaining booty to the local kings
- ❖ Abraham kept nothing for himself. His reward was in his victory
- ❖ There is nothing in scripture that says Abraham tithed his personal income or wealth at any time.
- ❖ Abraham had no GOD GIVEN commandment to give tithes.

EXAMPLE 2----- of PRE-LAW tithing

Gen 28:20-22

20 Then Jacob made a vow, saying, "If God will be with me and will watch over me on this journey I am taking and will give me food to eat and clothes to wear 21 so that I return safely to my father's house, then the LORD will be my God 22 and this stone that I have set up as a pillar will be God's house, and of all that you give me I will give you a tenth." NIV

Jacob has attempted to strike a deal with the almighty for the sake of PERSONAL GAIN.

- ❖ It was a deal perpetuated by fleshly man and was not at all initiated by Yahweh.
- ❖ Since scripture only records two incidents of voluntary pre-law tithing, it is clear that tithing was not a routine pre-law practice.
- ❖ There is actually no record that Jacob ever fulfilled his vow

Tithing Was Never Money Or Income Based. Tithing Was Land Based

Under the law; If two farmers had crops of 10 carrots each, they would both be obligated to tithe one carrot each. Under the agrarian (land based) tithing system it didn't matter If one sold the remaining 9 carrots for \$5 and the other sold his remaining 9 carrots for \$10.

- ❖ The tithe of the harvest was unrelated to the income of the harvest. Plain and simple -
- ❖ THE TITHE WAS NOT 10% OF INCOME, it was 10% of the harvest.
- ❖ The tithe was agrarian which means BASED ON THE LAND.

The Jews under the law were NOT obligated to give 10% of their incomes! This simple fact alone is enough to destroy the unscriptural doctrine that God DEMANDS you pay 10% of your income or be cursed.

Not based on income

Deut 14:22-23

22 Be sure to set aside a tenth of all that your fields produce each year. 23 Eat the tithe of your grain, new wine and oil, and the firstborn of your herds and flocks in the presence of the LORD your God at the place he will choose as a dwelling for his Name, so that you may learn to revere the LORD your God always NIV

Deut 18:1-5

18:1 The priests, who are Levites--indeed the whole tribe of Levi--are to have no allotment or inheritance with Israel. They shall live on the offerings made to the LORD by fire, for that is their inheritance. 2 They shall have no inheritance among their brothers; the LORD is their inheritance, as he promised them.

3 This is the share due the priests from the people who sacrifice a bull or a sheep: the shoulder, the jowls and the inner parts. 4 You are to give them the firstfruits of your grain, new wine and oil, and the first wool from the shearing of your sheep, 5 for the LORD your God has chosen them and their descendants out of all your tribes to stand and minister in the LORD's name always. NIV

Deut 26:12

12 When you have finished setting aside a tenth of all your produce in the third year, the year of the tithe, you shall give it to the Levite, the alien, the fatherless and the widow, so that they may eat in your towns and be satisfied NIV

- ❖ To be truly biblical, tithing was NOT based on your income or money AT ALL!
- ❖ During the period of the Mosaic Law, God commanded people bring a tenth of what they produced from the land regardless of the income they received from it.
- ❖ Tithing wasn't income based BEFORE OR AFTER the law and the tithe was NOT money!

In fact, it was against the law to sell the tithe. One was to bring the PRODUCT itself, NOT what the product was worth.

Lev 27:28

28 "But nothing that a man owns and devotes to the LORD--whether man or animal or family land--may be sold or redeemed; everything so devoted is most holy to the LORD. NIV

There are many references to tithing the "increase" using the Hebrew *tbuw'ah*] which literally means fruit or produce and in the tithing verses EATING the tithe is often referred to.

Deut 14:22-29

22 Be sure to set aside a tenth of all that your fields produce each year. 23 Eat the tithe of your grain, new wine and oil, and the firstborn of your herds and flocks in the presence of the LORD your God at the place he will choose as a dwelling for his Name, so that you may learn to revere the LORD your God always. 24 But if that place is too distant and you have been blessed by the LORD your God and cannot carry your tithe (because the place where the LORD will choose to put his Name is so far away), 25 then exchange your tithe for silver, and take the silver with you and go to the place the LORD your God will choose. 26 Use the silver to buy whatever you like: cattle, sheep, wine or other fermented drink, or anything you wish. Then you and your household shall eat there in the presence of the LORD your God and rejoice. 27 And do not neglect the Levites living in your towns, for they have no allotment or inheritance of their own. 28 At the end of every three years, bring all the tithes of that year's produce and store it in your towns, 29 so that the Levites (who have no allotment or inheritance of their own) and the aliens, the fatherless and the widows who live in

your towns may come and eat and be satisfied, and so that the LORD your God may bless you in all the work of your hands. NIV

It is often claimed by tithe proponents that the reason the tithe was agrarian products is because monetary systems had not yet been developed.

Gen 23:14-15

14 Ephron answered Abraham, 15 "Listen to me, my lord; the land is worth four hundred shekels of silver, but what is that between me and you? Bury your dead." NIV

Gen 42:25-26

25 Joseph gave orders to fill their bags with grain, to put each man's silver back in his sack, and to give them provisions for their journey. After this was done for them, 26 they loaded their grain on their donkeys and left. NIV

Jer 32:8-9

"I knew that this was the word of the LORD; 9 so I bought the field at Anathoth from my cousin Hanamel and weighed out for him seventeen shekels of silver. NIV

Mal 3:5

5 "So I will come near to you for judgment. I will be quick to testify against sorcerers, adulterers and perjurers, against those who defraud laborers of their wages, who oppress the widows and the fatherless, and deprive aliens of justice, but do not fear me," says the LORD Almighty. NIV

Selling the tithe

Lev 27:31-32

31 If a man redeems any of his tithe, he must add a fifth of the value to it. NIV

Once the tithe had been set aside, it was not legal to sell it for money. If sold, there was a 20% penalty levied to the tither. In other words, the tither was still obligated to pay his tithe plus 20% more as a penalty for having sold that which had been dedicated.

The PURPOSE of the tithe

Josh 13:14

14 But to the tribe of Levi he gave no inheritance, since the offerings made by fire to the LORD, the God of Israel, are their inheritance, as he promised them. NIV

Deut 10:6-9

6(The Israelites traveled from the wells of the Jaakanites to Moserah. There Aaron died and was buried, and Eleazar his son succeeded him as priest. 7 From there they traveled to Gudgodah and on to Jotbathah, a land with streams of water. 8 At that time the LORD set apart the tribe of Levi to carry the ark of the covenant of the LORD, to stand before the LORD to minister and to pronounce blessings in his name, as they still do today. 9 That is why the Levites have no share or inheritance among their brothers; the LORD is their inheritance, as the LORD your God told them.) NIV

Deut 18:1-5

18:1 The priests, who are Levites--indeed the whole tribe of Levi--are to have no allotment or inheritance with Israel. They shall live on the offerings made to the LORD by fire, for that is their inheritance. 2 They shall have no inheritance among their brothers; the LORD is their inheritance, as he promised them. 3 This is the share due the priests from the people who sacrifice a bull or a sheep: the shoulder, the jowls and the inner parts. 4 You are to give them the firstfruits of your grain, new wine and oil, and the first wool from the shearing of your sheep, 5 for the LORD your God has chosen them and their descendants out of all your tribes to stand and minister in the LORD's name always. NIV

Num 18:21

21 "I give to the Levites all the tithes in Israel as their inheritance in return for the work they do while serving at the Tent of Meeting. NIV

Num 18:23-24

24 Instead, I give to the Levites as their inheritance the tithes that the Israelites present as an offering to the LORD. That is why I said concerning them: 'They will have no inheritance among the Israelites.'

- ❖ God gave Israel's tithes to the Levites as an inheritance in lieu of land.
- ❖ The Levites then gave tithe to the Priests.

Neh 10:37-39

38 A priest descended from Aaron is to accompany the Levites when they receive the tithes, and the Levites are to bring a tenth of the tithes up to the house of our God, to the storerooms of the treasury. NIV

but they [Levites] apparently didn't have to tithe the income from the sale of inherited property.

Deut 18:6-8

6 If a Levite moves from one of your towns anywhere in Israel where he is living, and comes in all earnestness to the place the LORD will choose, **7** he may minister in the name of the LORD his God like all his fellow Levites who serve there in the presence of the LORD. **8** He is to share equally in their benefits, even though he has received money from the sale of family possessions. NIV

The Storehouse

Malachi 3:10

"Bring all the tithes into the STOREHOUSE that there may be FOOD in My House."

Neh 13:10-11

10 I also learned that the portions assigned to the Levites had not been given to them, and that all the Levites and singers responsible for the service had gone back to their own fields. **11** So I rebuked the officials and asked them, "Why is the house of God neglected?" Then I called them together and stationed them at their posts. NIV

1 Sam 8:15-18

15 He will take a tenth of your grain and of your vintage and give it to his officials and attendants. 16 Your menservants and maidservants and the best of your cattle and donkeys he will take for his own use. 17 He will take a tenth of your flocks, and you yourselves will become his slaves. 18 When that day comes, you will cry out for relief from the king you have chosen, and the LORD will not answer you in that day." NIV

2 Chron 31:11-12

11 Hezekiah gave orders to prepare storerooms in the temple of the LORD, and this was done. NIV

Deut 12:6-7

6 there bring your burnt offerings and sacrifices, your tithes and special gifts, what you have vowed to give and your freewill offerings, and the firstborn of your herds and flocks. 7 There, in the presence of the LORD your God, you and your families shall eat and shall rejoice in everything you have put your hand to, because the LORD your God has blessed you. NIV

Deut 12:17-19

17 You must not eat in your own towns the tithe of your grain and new wine and oil, or the firstborn of your herds and flocks, or whatever you have vowed to give, or your freewill offerings or special gifts. 18 Instead, you are to eat them in the presence of the LORD your God at the place the LORD your God will choose--you, your sons and daughters, your menservants and maidservants, and the Levites from your towns--and you are to rejoice before the LORD your God in everything you put your hand to. 19 Be careful not to neglect the Levites as long as you live in your land. NIV

Deut 14:22-23

22 Be sure to set aside a tenth of all that your fields produce each year. 23 Eat the tithe of your grain, new wine and oil, and the firstborn of your herds and flocks in the presence of the LORD your God at the place he will choose as a dwelling for his Name, so that you may learn to revere the LORD your God always. NIV

❖ The Levites and priests were dependent on tithes for FOOD.

- ❖ God's house was a STOREHOUSE and DISTRIBUTION POINT for the sacrifices, the Levites, the priests and the poor.

Tithing Was Always Done To Honor God

Biblical tithing was NOT done to get something back or to be the equivalent of a Christian lottery. None of the English words: "sacrifice," "offering," or "gift" quite corresponds to the Biblical words Korban, corban or qorban [see the word "gift" in Mark 7:11]. These words are derived from a verb that in one mood means to be near, and in another mood means to bring near. In the one case it would refer to the offerings themselves, in the other to the givers, as brought near, the offerings bringing them near to God. Today the "giving to get" mentality is shamelessly touted while giving to honor or get closer to God is only mentioned as a formality.

Mark 7:11-12

11 But you say that if a man says to his father or mother: 'Whatever help you might otherwise have received from me is Corban' (that is, a gift devoted to God), NIV

Referring to the Widow's mite], the same Christ that noted sacrificial over abundance giving said elsewhere, "Be financially responsible." Christ denounced giving to God while ignoring responsibilities. Romans 13:7-8 says to owe no man anything but love.

Mark 12:41-13:1

41 Jesus sat down opposite the place where the offerings were put and watched the crowd putting their money into the temple treasury. Many rich people threw in large amounts. 42 But a poor widow came and put in two very small copper coins, worth only a fraction of a penny. 43 Calling his disciples to him, Jesus said, "I tell you the truth, this poor widow has put more into the treasury than all the others. 44 They all gave out of their wealth; but she, out of her poverty, put in everything—all she had to live on." NIV

Mark 7:10-13

10 For Moses said, 'Honor your father and your mother,' and, 'Anyone who curses his father or mother must be put to death.' 11 But you say that if a man says to his father or mother: 'Whatever help you might otherwise have received from me is Corban' (that is, a gift devoted to God), 12 then you no longer let him do anything for his father or mother. 13 Thus you nullify the word of God by your tradition that you have handed down. And you do many things like that." NIV

Matt 22:21

1 "Caesar's," they replied. Then he said to them, "Give to Caesar what is Caesar's, and to God what is God's." NIV

Matt 17:25-18:1

25 "Yes, he does," he replied. When Peter came into the house, Jesus was the first to speak. "What do you think, Simon?" he asked. "From whom do the kings of the earth collect duty and taxes—from their own sons or from others?"

26 "From others," Peter answered.

"Then the sons are exempt," Jesus said to him. 27 "But so that we may not offend them, go to the lake and throw out your line. Take the first fish you catch; open its mouth and you will find a four-drachma coin. Take it and give it to them for my tax and yours." NIV

Rom 13:6-8

7 Give everyone what you owe him: If you owe taxes, pay taxes; if revenue, then revenue; if respect, then respect; if honor, then honor.

8 Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for he who loves his fellowman has fulfilled the law NIV

In the New Testament Church people sold what they had and gave the proceeds to the Church so no one had need of anything.

Acts 4:34-35

34 There were no needy persons among them. For from time to time those who owned lands or houses sold them, brought the money from the sales 35 and put it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to anyone as he had need. NIV

It is important to note that under the law communal responsibilities were mandatory but this New Testament giving was VOLUNTARY and tithing was never mentioned.

Acts 5:4

4 Didn't it belong to you before it was sold? And after it was sold, wasn't the money at your disposal? What made you think of doing such a thing? You have not lied to men but to God."

Peter told Ananias that after his land was sold the money was at HIS disposal and under his control. Peter never said, "You were only obliged to bring the tithe." Paul also encouraged this resource distribution system in 2 Corinthians 8:13-15 and Romans 12:13.

2 Cor 8:13-15

13 Our desire is not that others might be relieved while you are hard pressed, but that there might be equality. 14 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, 15 as it is written: "He who gathered much did not have too much, and he who gathered little did not have too little."

Rom 12:13

13 Share with God's people who are in need. Practice hospitality. NIV

The Old and New Testament purpose for wealth was not to be rich or impress people but to do the work of God and share with those in need

Matt 19:21

21 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." NIV

Eph 4:27-28

28 He who has been stealing must steal no longer, but must work, doing something useful with his own hands, that he may have something to share with those in need. NIV

The focus of giving has become getting instead of distributing resources to assist the needs of others. Christ taught to sell your possessions and to give donations to the poor

Luke 12:33-34

33 Sell your possessions and give to the poor. Provide purses for yourselves that will not wear out, a treasure in heaven that will not be exhausted, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. 34 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

God was impressed that Solomon did NOT make wealth a priority in his life.

2 Chron 1:7-12

7 That night God appeared to Solomon and said to him, "Ask for whatever you want me to give you." 8 Solomon answered God, "You have shown great kindness to David my father and have made me king in his place. 9 Now, LORD God, let your promise to my father David be confirmed, for you have made me king over a people who are as numerous as the dust of the earth. 10 Give me wisdom and knowledge, that I may lead this people, for who is able to govern this great people of yours?" 11 God said to Solomon, "Since this is your heart's desire and you have not asked for wealth, riches or honor, nor for the death of your enemies, and since you have not asked for a long life but for wisdom and knowledge to govern my people over whom I have made you king, 12 therefore wisdom and knowledge will be given you. And I will also give you wealth, riches and honor, such as no king who was before you ever had and none after you will have." NIV

God gave the tithes to the Levites as an inheritance in return for their service and to compensate them for having no personal inheritance of land. The Levites gave tithes to the Priests from the tithes they received. Christianity has no agrarian system, no Levites and every Christian is now a priest, the temple and co-workers with Christ.

1 Peter 2:5-6

5 you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. NIV

1 Peter 2:9

9 But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. NIV

Rev 1:5-7

To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood, 6 and has made us to be a kingdom and priests to serve his God and Father-to him be glory and power forever and ever! Amen. NIV

Rev 5:10

10 You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God, and they will reign on the earth." NIV

Rev 20:5-6

6 Blessed and holy are those who have part in the first resurrection. The second death has no power over them, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with him for a thousand years. NIV

Every Jew was required by the Levitical law to pay three tithes of his property:

- ❖ one tithe for the Levites;
 - ❖ one for the use of the temple and the great feasts; and
 - ❖ one for the poor of the land [Numbers 18, Deuteronomy 14]
-
- ❖ The only two examples of tithing BEFORE THE LAW in Genesis were voluntary, non-routine and profit [ownership] based.
 - ❖ Tithing AFTER THE LAW was mandatory, routine and agrarian (land) based.
 - ❖ Neither was income or money based as is usually taught today.

Tithing was not money

Matthew 23:23

Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites, for ye pay tithes of mint and anise and cummin, and ye have left aside the weightier matters of the law, judgment and mercy and faith: these ye ought to have done and not have left those aside.

Luke 11:42

But woe unto you, Pharisees, for ye pay tithes of mint and rue and every herb, and pass by the judgment and the love of God: these ye ought to have done, and not have left those aside.

Youngs Translation:

Matthew 23:23

Woe to you, Scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! because ye give tithes of the mint, and the dill, and the cumin, and did neglect the weightier things of the Law; the judgment, and the kindness, and the faith; these it behoved [you] to do, and those not to neglect.

Luke 11:42

But woe to you, the Pharisees, because ye tithe the mint, and the rue, and every herb, and ye pass by the judgment, and the love of God; these things it behoveth to do, and those not to be neglecting.

In Acts 15 when the issue of how much of the Mosaic Law Christian Gentiles were to keep, the answer was clear. They were to abstain from:

Acts 15:19-21

19 "It is my judgment, therefore, that we should not make it difficult for the Gentiles who are turning to God. 20 Instead we should write to them, telling them to abstain from food polluted by idols, from sexual immorality, from the meat of strangled animals and from blood. NIV

- ❖ ceremonial pollution with idols
- ❖ sexual immorality
- ❖ strangled meats (blood still in it)

Supporting Ministry

While mandates for tithing are NOT in the New Testament, the principle that the church and ministers can be supported by those they serve is an indisputable New Testament doctrine.

1 Cor 9:6-10

6 Or is it only I and Barnabas who must work for a living?

7 Who serves as a soldier at his own expense? Who plants a vineyard and does not eat of its grapes? Who tends a flock and does not drink of the milk? 8 Do I say this merely from a human point of view? Doesn't the Law say the same thing? 9 For it is written in the Law of Moses: "Do not muzzle an ox while it is treading out the grain." Is it about oxen that God is concerned? NIV

1 Cor 9:12-14

13 Don't you know that those who work in the temple get their food from the temple, and those who serve at the altar share in what is offered on the altar? 14 In the same way, the Lord has commanded that those who preach the gospel should receive their living from the gospel. NIV

Luke 10:7

7 Stay in that house, eating and drinking whatever they give you, for the worker deserves his wages. Do not move around from house to house. NIV

It is noteworthy that Paul, at times, chose NOT to live off of donations when he felt the Lord was better served.

1 Cor 9:13-19

13 Don't you know that those who work in the temple get their food from the temple, and those who serve at the altar share in what is offered on the altar? 14 In the same way, the Lord has commanded that those who preach the gospel should receive their living from the gospel. 15 But I have not used any of these rights. And I am not writing this in the hope that you will do such things for me. I would rather die than have anyone deprive me of this boast. 16 Yet when I preach the gospel, I cannot boast, for I am compelled to preach. Woe to me if I do not preach the gospel! 17 If I preach voluntarily, I have a reward; if not voluntarily, I am simply discharging the trust committed to me. 18 What then is my reward? Just this: that in preaching the gospel I may offer it free of charge, and so not make use of my rights in preaching it. 19 Though I am free and

belong to no man, I make myself a slave to everyone, to win as many as possible
NIV

Some Thoughts On Melchizedek And Tithing

Much is made about the mysterious King of Salem [Jerusalem] in Genesis 14 by mandated tithing teachers. The reality is in Abraham's time tithing was predominately a pagan practice and a voluntary social custom of acknowledging a cherished ruler. Some researchers say the pagan custom was mandatory but, either way, there was no command from God to tithe. To use the argument that tithes are mandated today because Abraham gave Melchizedek tithes is ludicrous for many reasons:

- ❖ First, Abraham VOLUNTARILY tithed spoils of war, not his personal income or wealth.
- ❖ Second, there was NO God given mandate to tithe at all.

Heb 7:1-3

2 and Abraham gave him a tenth of everything. First, his name means "king of righteousness"; then also, "king of Salem" means "king of peace." NIV

Gen 14:20-15:1

20 And blessed be God Most High, who delivered your enemies into your hand." Then Abram gave him a tenth of everything. 21 The king of Sodom said to Abram, "Give me the people and keep the goods for yourself." 22 But Abram said to the king of Sodom, "I have raised my hand to the LORD, God Most High, Creator of heaven and earth, and have taken an oath 23 that I will accept nothing belonging to you, not even a thread or the thong of a sandal, so that you will never be able to say, 'I made Abram rich.' 24 I will accept nothing but what my men have eaten and the share that belongs to the men who went with me--to Aner, Eshcol and Mamre. Let them have their share." NIV

- ❖ Third, Abraham had already received his blessing - the victory given by God. [Genesis 14:19-20] There is NOTHING in Scripture that says Abraham's blessing was contingent on his tithe.

Gen 14:19-20

"Blessed be Abram by God Most High, Creator of heaven and earth. 20 And blessed be God Most High, who delivered your enemies into your hand."NIV

❖ Fourth, the tithing of Abraham was a single event.

Supporting the New Testament ministry

While mandates for tithing are NOT in the New Testament, the principle that the church and ministers can be supported by those they serve is an ***indisputable New Testament doctrine***.

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6 Or is it only I and Barnabas who must work for a living? 7 Who serves as a soldier at his own expense? Who plants a vineyard and does not eat of its grapes? Who tends a flock and does not drink of the milk? 8 Do I say this merely from a human point of view? Doesn't the Law say the same thing? 9 For it is written in the Law of Moses: "Do not muzzle an ox while it is treading out the grain." Is it about oxen that God is concerned? NIV

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preach the gospel, I cannot boast, for I am compelled to preach. Woe to me if I do not preach the gospel! 17 If I preach voluntarily, I have a reward; if not voluntarily, I am simply discharging the trust committed to me. 18 What then is my reward? Just this: that in preaching the gospel I may offer it free of charge, and so not make use of my rights in preaching it. NIV

The Gospel of GRACE

Eph 2:15-3:1

15 Having abolished in his flesh the enmity, even the law of commandments contained in ordinances; for to make in himself of twain one new man, so making peace;

16 And that he might reconcile both unto God in one body by the cross, having slain the enmity thereby:

2 Cor 9:6-11

6 But this I say, He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully.

7 Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver.

8 And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work:

9(As it is written, He hath dispersed abroad; he hath given to the poor: his righteousness remaineth forever.

10 Now he that ministereth seed to the sower both minister bread for your food, and multiply your seed sown, and increase the fruits of your righteousness;)

11 Being enriched in everything to all bountifulness, which causeth through us thanksgiving to God.

Hebrews 7

7:1 For this Melchizedek, king of Salem, priest of the most high God, **who met Abraham returning from the slaughter of the kings, and blessed him;**

2 To whom also Abraham gave a tenth part of all; first being by interpretation King of righteousness, and after that also King of Salem, which is, King of peace;

3 Without father, without mother, without descent, having neither beginning of days, nor end of life; but made like unto the Son of God; abideth a priest continually.

4 Now consider how great this man was, unto whom even the patriarch Abraham gave **the tenth of the spoils.**

5 And verily they that are of the sons of Levi, who receive the office of the priesthood, have a commandment to take tithes of the people **according to the law**, that is, of their brethren, though they come out of the loins of Abraham:

6 But he whose descent is not counted from them **received tithes of Abraham, and blessed him that had the promises.**

7 **And without all contradiction the less [Abraham] is blessed of the better [Melchizedek].**

8 And here men that die receive tithes; but there he receiveth them, of whom it is witnessed that he liveth.

9 And as I may so say, Levi also, who receiveth tithes, payed tithes in Abraham.

10 For he was yet in the loins of his father, when Melchizedek met him.

11 If therefore perfection were by the Levitical priesthood, (for under it the people received the law,) what further need was there that another priest should rise after the order of Melchizedek, and not be called after the order of Aaron?

12 **For the priesthood being changed, there is made of necessity a change also of the law.**

13 For he of whom these things are spoken pertaineth to another tribe, of which no man gave attendance at the altar.

14 For it is evident that our Lord sprang out of Juda; of which tribe Moses spake nothing concerning priesthood.

15 And it is yet far more evident: for that after the similitude of Melchizedek there ariseth another priest,

16 Who is made, not after the law of a carnal commandment, but after the power of an endless life.

17 For he testifieth, Thou art a priest for ever after the order of Melchizedek.

18 For there is verily a disannulling of the commandment going before for the weakness and unprofitableness thereof.

19 For the law made nothing perfect, but the bringing in of a better hope did; by the which we draw nigh unto God.

20 And inasmuch as not without an oath he was made priest:

21 (For those priests were made without an oath; but this with an oath by him that said unto him, The Lord sware and will not repent, Thou art a priest for ever after the order of Melchizedek:)

22 By so much was Jesus made a surety of a better testament.

23 And they truly were many priests, because they were not suffered to continue by reason of death:

24 But this man, because he continueth ever, hath an unchangeable priesthood.

25 Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them.

26 For such an high priest became us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and made higher than the heavens;

*27 Who needeth not daily, as those high priests, to offer up sacrifice, first for his own sins, and then for the people's: **for this he did once, when he offered up himself.***

28 For the law maketh men high priests which have infirmity; but the word of the oath, which was since the law, maketh the Son, who is consecrated for evermore.

Gal 3:1-15

3:1 You foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched you? Before your very eyes Jesus Christ was clearly portrayed as crucified. **2** I would like to learn just one thing from you: Did you receive the Spirit by observing the law, or by believing what you heard? **3** Are you so foolish? After beginning with the Spirit, are you now trying to attain your goal by human effort? **4** Have you suffered so much for nothing-if it really was for nothing? **5** Does God give you his Spirit and work miracles among you because you observe the law, or because you believe what you heard? **6** Consider Abraham: "He believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness." **7** Understand, then, that those who believe are children of Abraham. **8** The Scripture foresaw that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, and announced the gospel in advance to Abraham: "All nations will be blessed through you." **9** So those who have faith are blessed along with Abraham, the man of faith. **10** All who rely on observing the law are under a curse, for it is written: "Cursed is everyone who does not continue to do everything written in the Book of the Law." **11** Clearly no one is justified before God by the law, because, "The righteous will live by faith." **12** The law is not based on faith; on the contrary, "The man who does these things will live by them." **13** Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us, for it is written: "Cursed is everyone who is hung on a tree." **14** He redeemed us in order that the blessing given to Abraham might come to the Gentiles through Christ Jesus, so that by faith we might receive the promise of the Spirit. NIV

Heb 6:4-6

For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted of the heavenly gift, and were made partakers of the Holy Ghost,

5 And have tasted the good word of God, and the powers of the world to come,

6 If they shall fall away, to renew them again unto repentance; seeing they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put him to an open shame

Assembled for teaching----Danny McDowell