

RADICAL GIVING FOR RADICAL REASONS

Palm Sunday April 13, 2025 — OUR GENEROUS GOD series Msg #4 — Pastor Andrew Coleman

REVIEW:

God CREATED all things, He OWNS all things, and He GENEROUSLY GIVES all things.

Romans 8:32; 2 Peter 1:3; James 1:17; Psalm 84:11;

God's GENEROSITY is seen in...

- Eternity Past (His Trinity), ---> WITHIN HIMSELF!
- the Present (His redemption), ---> THE CROSS!
- Eternity Future (His promises) ---> ETERNAL LIFE/HEAVEN!

God's LOVE is the reason that God GENEROUSLY GIVES Himself to others.

JOHN 3:16 *For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son...*

God's GENEROSITY calls us to RECEIVE HIM, REJOICE in HIM and IMITATE HIM.

EPHESIANS 5:1-2 *Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.*

Giving like God means GENEROUS, SACRIFICIAL GIVING.

2 CORINTHIANS 8:1-7; 9:6-15 *their extreme poverty have overflowed in a wealth of generosity*

THE BIBLICAL STORY OF GENEROUS GIVING:

1) It all started when ABRAM GIVES BACK TO GOD.

Genesis 1-11 Creation, Fall/Sin, More Sin, Flood, Restart with sons of Noah

Genesis 12-50 **The Patriarchs** (Fathers of our Faith)

- Abram -- (who became ABRAHAM) a pagan who God would choose to bless
- God calls Abram to leave his homeland and promises blessings.
- Abram obeys God and follows God in FAITH.
- God tests Abram and his wife Sarai but shows Himself faithful.
- Abram and his nephew Lot go separate ways with their wealth.
- Lot is taken captive by the Kings of Chedorloamer (raided Sodom)
- Abram launched a rescue mission and brings back Lot and the spoils of war.
- A mysterious King and Priest Melchizedek brings out a promise/blessing to Abram
- Abram gives to God's priest and king a TENTH of everything (a TITHE)

GENESIS 14:17-23 **The First Offering In Gratitude**

17 After his return from the defeat of Chedorloamer and the kings who were with him, the king of Sodom went out to meet him at the Valley of Shaveh (that is, the King's Valley). **18** And Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine. (He was priest of God Most High.) **19** And he blessed him and said,

*"Blessed be Abram by God Most High,
Possessor of heaven and earth;
and blessed be God Most High,
who has delivered your enemies into your hand!"*

*And Abram gave him a tenth of everything. **21** And the king of Sodom said to Abram, "Give me the persons, but take the goods for yourself." **22** But Abram said to the king of Sodom, "I have lifted my hand to the Lord, God Most High, Possessor of heaven and earth, **23** that I would not take a thread or a sandal strap or anything that is yours, lest you should say, 'I have made Abram rich.'*

GENESIS 28 **JACOB** (Abraham's grandson by Isaac) also gives a TENTH of EVERYTHING.

GENESIS 14:22 “*And Abram gave him a tenth of everything.*”

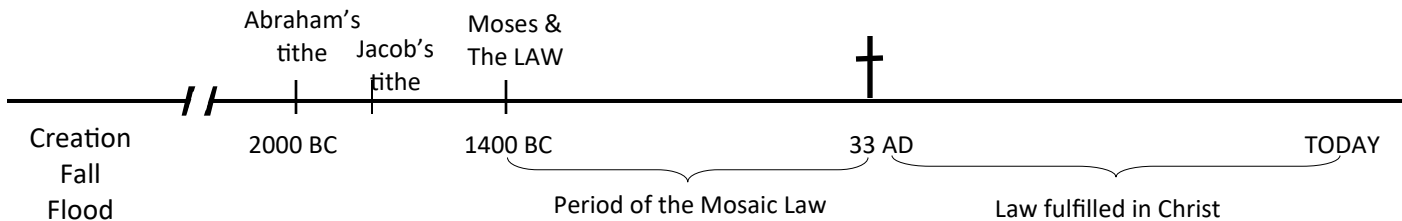
Abraham gave GRATEFULLY.

Abraham gave GENEROUSLY.

Abraham gave SYSTEMATICALLY (10%).

2) The PRINCIPLE OF THE TITHE continued through MOSES in GOD’S LAW :

- 600 years after Abraham’s tithe, the law prescribed tithing.
- Giving TEN percent was God’s prescriptive plan for His Law.
(Lev. 27:30; Num. 18:25–28; Deut. 14:22–24; 2 Chron. 31:5–6)
- There were actually two tithes and other offerings that came to 23.5 %!



- **But the command to tithe wasn't merely a law. It was a PRINCIPLE.**
What is a principle? *'a fundamental truth or proposition that serves as the foundation for a system of belief or behavior or for a chain of reasoning'.*
- **And beyond being a principle, it was a PROMISE !**
How do we know? See God’s message through the prophet Malachi.
Israel constantly disobeyed God over and over and over again.
 - They offered their weak and sick animals for sacrifice.
 - They treated their wives horribly and divorce became rampant.
 - They neglected their poor, their orphans, and their widows.

MALACHI 3:6-12

6 “For I the Lord do not change; therefore you, O children of Jacob, are not consumed. **7** From the days of your fathers you have turned aside from my statutes and have not kept them. Return to Me, and I will return to you, says the Lord of hosts. But you say, ‘How shall we return?’

8 Will a man rob God? Yet you are robbing Me. But you say, ‘How have we robbed You?’ In your tithes and contributions. **9** You are cursed with a curse, for you are robbing Me, the whole nation of you. **10** **Bring the full tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in My house. And thereby put Me to the test, says the Lord of hosts, if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you a blessing until there is no more need.** **11** I will rebuke the devourer for you, so that it will not destroy the fruits of your soil, and your vine in the field shall not fail to bear, says the Lord of hosts. **12** Then all nations will call you blessed, for you will be a land of delight, says the Lord of hosts.

When they deserved His judgment God promised them GENEROUS BLESSING .

The principle is clear-- TRUST GOD by voluntarily, sacrificially, and generously GIVING BACK to Him and He will bless you beyond all your needs!

Do you see that this is GOD’S TREMENDOUS GRACE ?

3) IF CHRIST FULFILLED THE LAW, WHY SHOULD CHRISTIANS TITHE TODAY?

A -- Because CHRIST ENDORSED the tithe; He was not against it.

This is actually the ONLY THING that Jesus commended the Pharisees for in 39 verses of harsh rebuke in Matthew chapter 23.

MATTHEW 23:23

23 "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you tithe mint and dill and cumin, and have neglected the weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and faithfulness. These you ought to have done, without neglecting the others.

B-- Because the APOSTLE PAUL ASSUMED the tithe.

GALATIANS 3:5-9 -- (Abraham's example of faith in God was basis for everything)

5 Does He who supplies the Spirit to you and works miracles among you do so by works of the law, or by hearing with faith— 6 just as Abraham "believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness"? 7 Know then that it is those of faith who are the sons of Abraham.

8 And the Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel beforehand to Abraham, saying, "In you shall all the nations be blessed." 9 So then, those who are of faith are blessed along with Abraham, the man of faith.

1 CORINTHIANS 16:2 (Paul assumed that giving was part of weekly WORSHIP.)

On the first day of every week, each of you is to put something aside and store it up, as he may prosper, so that there will be no collecting when I come.

Personally, I would love to see the Apostle Paul respond to someone who says "Uh, you know, since Jesus set me free from the Law of sin and death, I'm really not required to give anything if I don't want to-- right?" or "If I want to just give a little, that's up to me, right?" or "Why give to the church? Can't I just give to whatever benevolence I prefer-- I'm free in Christ, right?" I believe that the man who worked, scraped, fought and suffered to plant and grow churches across the Mediterranean world and who wrote 2 Corinthians 11:24-33 would, in no uncertain terms, help you see your woeful spiritual immaturity and selfishness.

C-- Because Christians need to support the GOD'S WORK.

It's called 'storehouse giving'

Malachi 3:10 *Bring the full tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in My house.*

Those who care for you should be cared for. 1 Timothy 5:17-18

D-- Because Christians need to grow in FAITH and DEVOTION.

Tithing will BLESS YOU. It is a sure-fire way to build both faith and devotion.

HEBREWS 12:11

All discipline for the moment seems not to be joyful, but sorrowful; yet to those who have been trained by it, afterwards it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness.

E-- Because ETERNITY IS COMING.

MATTHEW 6:19-21

19 "Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, 20 but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. 21 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

**TITHING is not a Law to be kept but a biblical principle that BRINGS BLESSINGS.
God invites you to TEST / PROVE HIM with the TITHE -- **WILL YOU?****