

Study Guide for February 27th, 2005. The Tithe: Then and Now. Deut. 14:22-29

Introduction: What has been your understanding of the tithe? How have you heard it taught and applied for Christians? What principles carry over for New Testament saints?

I. The Practice of the TITHE in Israel. (Deut. 14:22-29)

- A. What were the Israelites commanded to tithe?
- B. Where were they instructed to offer their tithe?
- C. What provision was made if an individual lived too far from the central sanctuary?
- D. What were the Israelites instructed to do with their tithe?
- E. Who, besides the one offering the tithe, was to benefit from the tithe?
- F. What promise does God make for those who obey the command to tithe?

II. Principles from the TITHE that endure for Christians today. (selected references)

- A. Giving is a response of GRATITUDE:
 - 1) Who is the source of all that we have? (see Lk. 12:13-21 and I Cor. 4:7)
 - 2) How should this reality affect our pattern of giving?
- B. Giving is a means to a deeper relationship with God:
 - 1) Read Lk. 6:32-38. What is said of the person who is giving and forgiving?
 - 2) Read Lk. 21:1-4. Who, according to Jesus, had a deeper relationship with God?
- C. Giving to God overflows in generosity toward others – especially those in need:
 - 1) What should our attitude be toward the less fortunate? (see Mt. 25:34-46)
 - 2) What should be our attitude toward those called to ministry? (I Cor. 9:1-12)
- D. Giving leads to celebration with others before God:
 - 1) Read Mal. 3:6-12. What does God promise if his people bring the whole tithe?
 - 2) In light of what you've learned about the tithe, do you think it is binding for us?
- E. Giving is a test of our overall obedience to God:
 - 1) Meditate on II Cor. 9:6-11. What guidelines do you see for us in giving?
 - 2) Evaluate your attitude and actions toward giving. Are they pleasing to God?