

*Did prophets and apostles in the Old and New Testament tithe? Are we supposed to tithe today?*

Faithful Bible churches need support—electricity costs money. Cleaning the carpets costs money; but, tithing is no longer for the body of Christ. Tithing was for Jews in the Old Testament. Believers must recognize the new covenant and our dispensation of grace as gentiles.

Regarding tithing in apostolic and post-apostolic periods C. Meeks wrote:

Christian opinions on tithing differed in the early church between those who sought distinct separation from the perceived legalism inherent in Judaism and those who saw ongoing parallels between Jewish and Christian priesthood. Early documents such as the Didache may promote tithing, but they refer to the practice implicitly (Didache 1:5–6; 13:4–7; Powers, Historical, 15). Early church fathers such as Irenaeus took literally Jesus' command to give everything to the good of the Church, not just a tenth (Irenaeus, *Adversus Haereses* 4.18). Chrysostom assumed that the practice of tithing was of ongoing significance for the Church, bemoaning those who would give little to nothing, and certainly not a tenth (Chrysostom, Homilies 4.2). Jerome and Augustine conceded that if Christians are unwilling to eschew physical goods, they should at least tithe (Jerome, Letters, 52.5; Augustine, Sermons 35.5; 56.3; Powers, Historical, 39, 49).

And regarding tithing in the modern church Meeks continued:

Today, opinions on whether Christians should practice tithing are divided and nuanced. Davis concludes that tithing is necessary because biblical evidence suggests the practice was continued, but he emphasizes that it must not become legalistic (Davis, "Are Christians," 97). [According to] Köstenberger agrees that biblical evidence suggests that giving is important. However, he argues that the Old Testament prescription for tithing is not meant to be taken literally since New Testament evidence is incidental ("Will," 77). Rather, the Christian attitude toward giving ought to be shaped by the Old Testament but defined by Jesus' proscriptions and Paul's exhortations in the New Testament ("Reconstructing," 259–60).<sup>1</sup>

The apostle Paul wrote: So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver (2 Co 9:7, NKJV).

Christians should give for the furtherance of the gospel as the spirit would lead; but, tithing is not for us today. It was for Israel. One should let the peace of Christ rule in his heart (Co 3:15).

Churches may wish to refrain from passing an offering plate around during services so that newcomers will not think that the church only cares about money. Sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ is what is important.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Meeks, C. (2016). Tithe. In J. D. Barry, D. Bomar, D. R. Brown, R. Klippenstein, D. Mangum, C. Sinclair Wolcott, L. Wentz, E. Ritzema, & W. Widder (Eds.), *The Lexham Bible Dictionary*. Lexham Press.

<sup>2</sup> "No Need to Tithe." *kgov.com*, 11 Jan. 2012, [kgov.com/bel/20120111](http://kgov.com/bel/20120111). Accessed 7 June 2024. Bob Enyart Interview with Daniel Mynyk, author of *Freedom to Give*.

