

What are tithers' rights?

Matt T. Barclay, a false teacher (2 Pe 2:1), is promoting a "sacred tithe" (Heb 13:9). He says, "All believers are to tithe the first tenth of all their increase and honor God with their substance," and "[t]he tither has tither's rights¹." Barclay is a prosperity (e.g. health and wealth) gospel teacher (2 Cor. 11:14-15).

Believers were to tithe under the law. Christians presently live under the dispensation of grace. The apostle Paul merely taught: Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver (2 Co 9:7).

God did not nail: *thou shall not murder* (Ex 20:13) or *thou shall not commit adultery* (v14) to the cross. Rather, the law is perpetual and ongoing (Mal 4:4).

Jesus said:

Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil. For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled. Mt 5:17-18

God's law is an expression of his will (Rom. 7:2–9). It is an operating principle (Rom. 3:27). The law is written on every man's heart (Rom. 2:14, 15). The entire law is summed up in two commandments.

Jesus said:

Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and most important command. The second is like it: Love your neighbor as yourself. All the Law and the Prophets depend on these two commands. Mt 22:37–40

Though God's moral laws remain, neither ritualistic nor ceremonial laws are in effect today (Neh 10:32, Ac 15:1-29, Heb 9:10, Eph 2:15, Col 2:20).

Paul wrote:

What should we say then? Should we continue in sin so that grace may multiply? Absolutely not! How can we who died to sin still live in it? Ro 6:1–2

Jesus said:

The scribes and the Pharisees sit in Moses' seat. Therefore whatever they tell you to observe, *that observe and do*, but *do not do* according to their works; for they say, and do not do (Mt 23:2–3, emphasis mine).

Men are to follow the law but not all of the extra 600 some ordinances—they are not of God.

No man has a *right* to the fruits of another man's labor. If government is the middle man—it does not make God's enduring command: *thou shall not steal* right (Ex 20:15).

Christians are to remember the poor (Jer. 22:16). Doing so will bring a heavenly blessing (Matt. 25:34–40). Men are warned against wrong treatment of the poor: He who oppresses the poor reproaches his

¹ Mark Barclay Ministries, Statement of Faith: 12 March 2016 <http://marktbarclay.com/StatementOfFaith>

Maker, but he who honors Him has mercy on the needy (Pr 14:31); And: Whoever shuts his ears to the cry of the poor will also cry himself and not be heard (Pr 21:13).

Those who mistreat the poor will be judged by God:

The Lord standeth up to plead,

And standeth to judge the people.

The Lord will enter into judgment with the ancients of his people, and the princes thereof:

For ye have eaten up the vineyard;

The spoil of the poor is in your houses.

What mean ye that ye beat my people to pieces,

And grind the faces of the poor?

Saith the Lord God of hosts. Is 3:13–15

Christians are guaranteed neither health nor wealth in this life. The parable of the Rich man and Lazarus teaches that though believers may be sick or poor in this life, they will have health and prosperity in the next life (Lk 16:19–31).

Believers get diseases like anyone else. Should they succumb to disease, it does not mean they had any less faith than another. Christians have hope.

Paul wrote:

I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus. 1 Th 4:13–14

The believer is to be a good steward of his funds. Giving is encouraged but it is not required (Prov. 3:9, 10; Mal. 3:10–12; 2 Cor. 9:6–8).