



Deuteronomy Chapter 14c

Tithes And Offerings

Once again before we get started, I'd like to simply welcome everyone and say thank you for sharing your time with us here this evening as we continue our study throughout the book of Deuteronomy this evening.

During the last several weeks, we've spoken about the dietary commandment of Yehovah the Elohim of Israel. And we made note of the fact that nowhere in the New Testament are we told that mankind has been commanded by God to eat any animal that he so chooses. And in that process, we went through Mark chapter 7 and we went through Acts chapter 10 along with several other Scripture that clearly throws to the ground any doctrine that claims that God's people are allowed to eat any animal that they so choose. And if you have not seen those previous studies, I would encourage you to go back and take a look at them especially if you are confused in any way concerning whether or not children of Yehovah God are allowed to eat anything that they so choose.

But this week we are going to be turning the page concerning another topic of what Deuteronomy chapter 14 also deals with. And that topic is the topic of tithes, and tithing. And we're going to talk a little bit about this very topic here this evening and the concept of how the tithe was used to support the Levitical priesthood back in the days of Moses... and how tithes and offerings today are used to support those who preach the gospel. And as we progress into Deuteronomy chapter 15 next week,

we're going to see how all of these things put together made sure that no one in Israel was poor.

What most people do not understand is that it was never Yehovah God's intention that his children be poor, and we're going to see that in Deuteronomy chapter 15. And if that seems like prosperity preaching you can rest assured that it is not however... it was always from the very beginning Yehovah God's will that all of his children would do well and prosper together as an assembly. And I think that as we continue on through Deuteronomy chapter 14 and move on into Deuteronomy chapter 15 many of us may very well have our perspectives changed concerning not only those who preach the gospel today in our time, but also those who are among us that are poor and destitute.

And therefore, before I say another word, I would like us to turn to Deuteronomy chapter 14 so that we might understand not only the definition of the word "tithe"... but also the principal of the word tithe and what it represents. And therefore, let us turn this evening to **Deuteronomy chapter 14 verses 22 through 29 E1**

Tithes

Deu 14:22 "You shall tithe all the yield of your seed that comes from the field year by year.

Deu 14:23 And before the LORD your God, in the place that he will choose, to make his name dwell there, you shall eat the tithe of your grain, of your wine, and of your oil, and the firstborn of your herd and flock, that you may learn to fear the LORD your God always.

Deu 14:24 And if the way is too long for you, so that you are not able to carry the tithe, when the LORD your God blesses you, because the place is too far from you, which the LORD your God chooses, to set his name there,

Deu 14:25 then you shall turn it into money and bind up the money in your hand and go to the place that the LORD your God chooses

Deu 14:26 and spend the money for whatever you desire—oxen or sheep or wine or strong drink, whatever your appetite craves. And you shall eat there before the LORD your God and rejoice, you and your household.

Deu 14:27 And you shall not neglect the Levite who is within your towns, for he has no portion or inheritance with you.

Deu 14:28 "At the end of every three years you shall bring out all the tithe of your produce in the same year and lay it up within your towns.

Deu 14:29 And the Levite, because he has no portion or inheritance with you, and the sojourner, the fatherless, and the widow, who are within your towns, shall come and eat and be filled, that the LORD your God may bless you in all the work of your hands that you do.

Believe it or not, there is a lot to unpack here in Deuteronomy chapter 14 concerning what was known as "the tithe". And one of the first things that I would like to mention is where the word "tithe" actually comes from and what it means according to the original Hebrew language.
(scrn 1)

H4643

מעשרה / מעשר / מעשר

Tithe = ma'asêr / ma'asar / ma'asrah

BDB Definition:

- 1) tithe, tenth part
- 1a) tenth part
- 1b) tithe, payment of a tenth part

Part of Speech: noun masculine

A Related Word by BDB/Strong's Number: from H6240



To be clear, there is more than one Hebrew word that is translated into the English word "tithe". But... they all essentially mean the same thing. When the Bible speaks about someone giving a tithe it is generally speaking about someone giving a tenth of something. If you have flocks, and you were going to tithe your flock, then that meant that you would be giving one tenth of your sheep to the Levitical priesthood.

Now... today in our time we throw the word “tithe” around and we use it in more ways than one. Some use the word “tithe” to still mean 10% of your income. But the more studied use the word “tithe” as it should be used today. And we’ll explain that as we move forward. But... back in the days of Moses, the Hebrew word “masar” which has been translated into the English word “tithe” actually means “10th”. And this is extremely important to remember when we are reading through the Old Testament Scripture because the English word “tithe” that comes from the Hebrew word “masar” never changes. However... it is important that we remember what the “tithe” represented. What did the “tithe” represent? Originally, the “tithe” represented a gift that was given by one person to another person in order to honor and glorify Yehovah God. And I want us to stop right here for just a moment and think about this for just a moment because it’s important.

You see, the definition of the “tithe” means much more than just a tenth of something. The tithe represented a willful and intentional gift from the giver... to someone else... in order to honor and glorify Yehovah God. That’s what the tithe was used for. The house of Israel gave their tithes to the Levitical priesthood and to the fatherless and the widows and poor in order to honor and glorify Yehovah God.

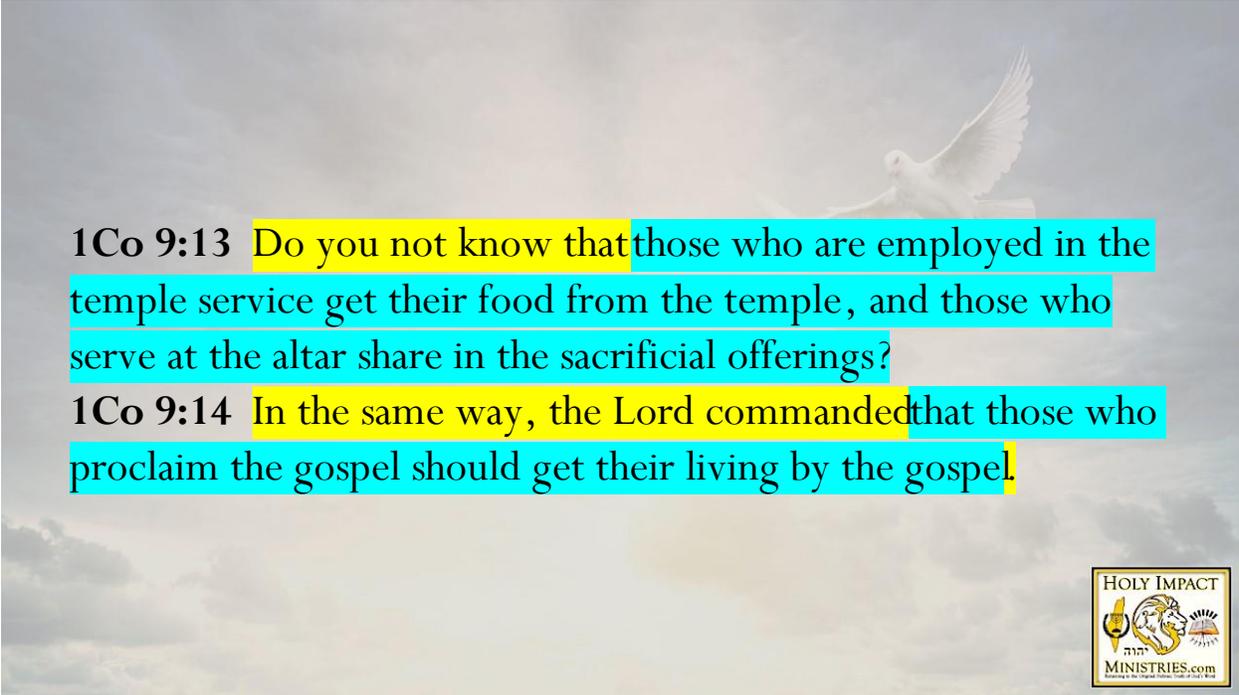
You see annually (that is year by year) a tenth of all Israelite produce and livestock was to be taken to where the tabernacle or the temple resided for the distribution to the Levites. And all of the house of Israel would eat that 10th of their produce before Yehovah God. The rest... which would have been the greater part of that produce would then belong to the Levites. And every 3rd year the tithe was gathered in and stored for distribution to not only the Levites... but also to the less fortunate, and the fatherless and the widows and we’ll get into all of that as we move forward into the book of Deuteronomy.

But the question that we need to ask ourselves at this point is, how does this tithe honor and glorify Yehovah God? The tithe honored and glorified Yehovah God because Yehovah God commanded the house of

Israel to do this. And because Yehovah God commanded the house of Israel to do this in order to take care of his Levitical priesthood, and the poor and the fatherless and the widow... when the people of Israel did what God commanded them to do concerning the tithe... they were essentially honoring and glorifying Yehovah God.

So, what does the tithe do? It honors and glorifies Yehvoah God.

And therefore, I do not want anyone to think of the tithe as a number. The tithe represents more than just a number. And in order to point this out to you within the Scripture I'd like to turn to **first Corinthians chapter 9 verses 13 and 14 (scrn 2)**



1Co 9:13 Do you not know that those who are employed in the temple service get their food from the temple, and those who serve at the altar share in the sacrificial offerings?

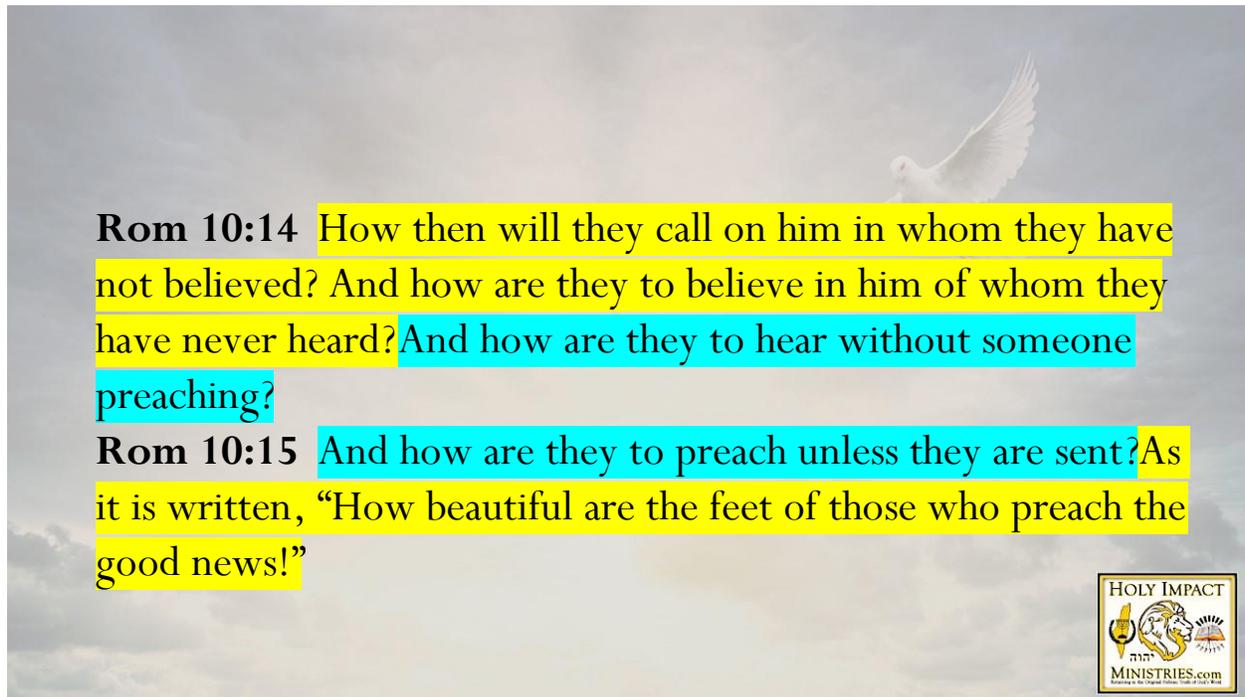
1Co 9:14 In the same way, the Lord commanded that those who proclaim the gospel should get their living by the gospel.



Here in the New Testament, we see that the apostle Paul directly connects those who were employed in the temple service and served at the altar... who were the Levitical priesthood... with those who proclaim the gospel. And Paul clearly states that it is commanded... that those who proclaim the gospel should get their living by the gospel.

And I want us to pay close attention to why it is that the apostle Paul ties the Levitical priesthood together with those who preach the gospel. Why does he do that here in 1st Corinthians?

The Levitical priesthood were part of the tribe of Levi who Yehovah God had set apart for himself to work at his tabernacle and at his altar. They were called out by Yehovah God to do a specific work. And so too is it that those pastors today who are true God-fearing, Messiah following, cross bearing pastors... have been called out and set apart for Yehovah God to do a specific work. Consider **Romans chapter 10 verses 14 and 15 (scrn 3)**



How are they to hear without someone preaching? And how are they to preach unless they are sent? Does God not set apart and send those who preach just like he set apart the Levitical priesthood? **Ephesians chapter 4 verses 11 through 14 (scrn 4)**

Eph 4:11 And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers,

Eph 4:12 to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ,

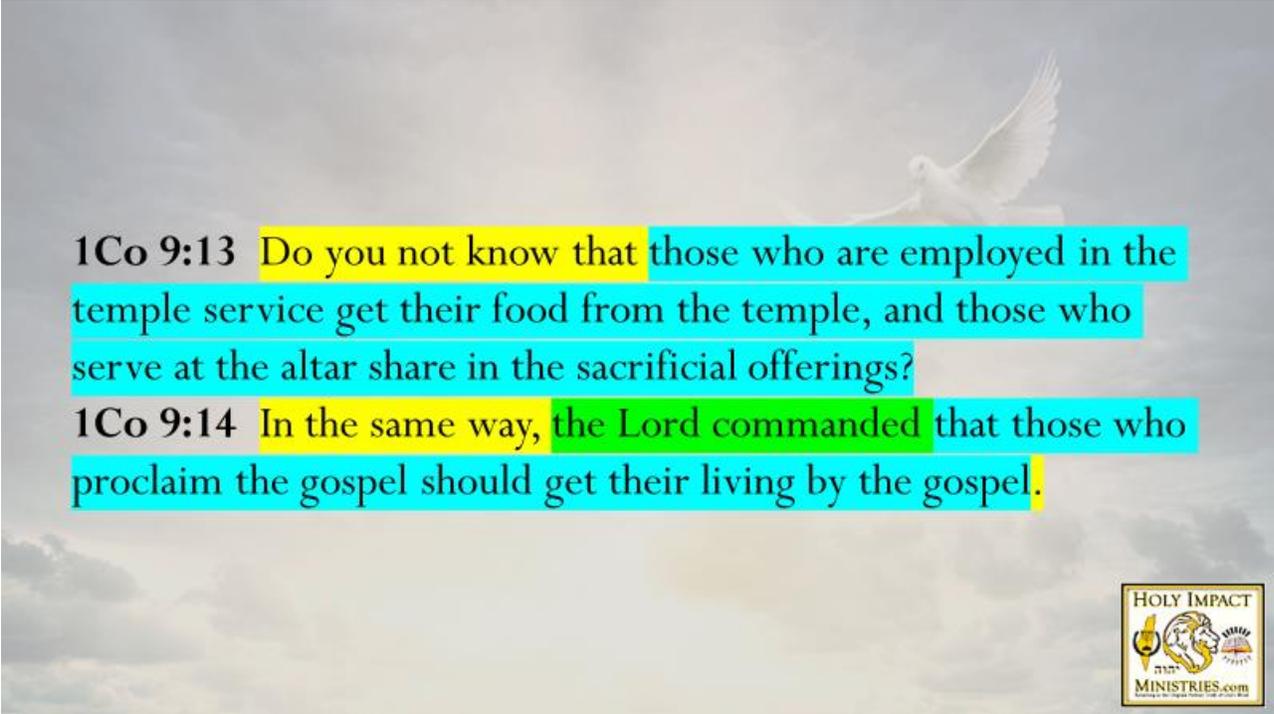
Eph 4:13 until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ,

Eph 4:14 so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes.



Just like Yehovah God had set apart the Levitical priesthood in order to work at his temple and that his altar... he has also set apart true God-fearing, Messiah following, cross bearing pastors to preach his word and to work at his altar.

And therefore, it should be of no surprise to us why it is that the apostle Paul himself equates the Levitical priesthood who worked at the temple and the altar with those who preach the gospel today. **(scrn 5 show)**



1Co 9:13 Do you not know that those who are employed in the temple service get their food from the temple, and those who serve at the altar share in the sacrificial offerings?

1Co 9:14 In the same way, the Lord commanded that those who proclaim the gospel should get their living by the gospel.



And this is exactly why the apostle Paul tells us that it is commanded... get that my friends... Yehovah commanded... that those who proclaim the gospel should get their living by the gospel.

Now... why is this important to understand? It's important to understand because just as Paul tells us in Romans chapter 10... how is anyone going to hear without someone preaching? And how is anyone going to be able to preach unless they are sent by him?

I tell you the truth my friends, there are a whole lot of pastors out there today who have not been sent by him. But by the same token... there are a whole lot of pastors out there today who have been sent by him. And the gospel message that we preach today is no less important than the gospel message that the Levitical priesthood preached back in the days of Moses. In fact... I would submit to you that the Gospel that we have to share today is a better gospel message than the message that the Levitical priesthood had to proclaim because it reveals so much more!

And so, moving forward, I want to make sure that we understand this

word “tithe” that we see in the Bible and why often times those who are very pious and think that they are very holy will only understand the letter of the law concerning the biblical word “tithe”... and not the actual purpose and meaning of the biblical tithe. You see the word “tithe” is not just a word. It’s an action. It requires one to do something. It is not just tied to a number. Once again... (scrn 6)

A “tithe” was given by someone, to someone else in order to honor and glorify Yehvoah God. And the “tithe” started with Abraham who gave to the High Priest Melchizedek a gift in order to honor Yehovah God.

Gen 14:20



Let’s now take the time to go read and understand what a “tithe” actually is according to the meaning and purpose of the Bible. We can find that in **Genesis chapter 14 verses 17 through 20 E2**

Abram Blessed by Melchizedek

Gen 14:17 After his return from the defeat of Chedorlaomer 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).

Gen 14:18 And Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine. (He was priest of God Most High.)

Gen 14:19 And he blessed him and said, “Blessed be Abram by God Most High, Possessor of heaven and earth;

Gen 14:20 and blessed be God Most High, who has delivered your enemies

into your hand!" And Abram gave him a tenth of everything.

We must remember that here in Genesis chapter 14 Abram's nephew Lot along with his family and all that he had owned had been kidnapped and taken hostage by several hostile kings who had overthrown Sodom where Lot and his family lived. And therefore, Abram put together a small army of 318 men and he chased after these kings and defeated them and brought Lot and his family back.

But the point that needs to be made here is that this high priest in the order of Melchizedek who was also known as the king of Salem had brought out bread and wine in order to bless Abram because he knew that God had to have been with Abram in order for Abram to defeat all of these different kings with only 318 men.

And so what does Abram do? Abram gives this man of God... this priest in the order of Melchizedek a tenth of everything. Once again, what are we seeing here? **(same scrn 6 show)**

A "tithe" was given by someone, to someone else in order to honor and glorify Yehvoah God. And the "tithe" started with Abraham who gave to the High Priest Melchizedek a gift in order to honor Yehovah God.

Gen 14:20

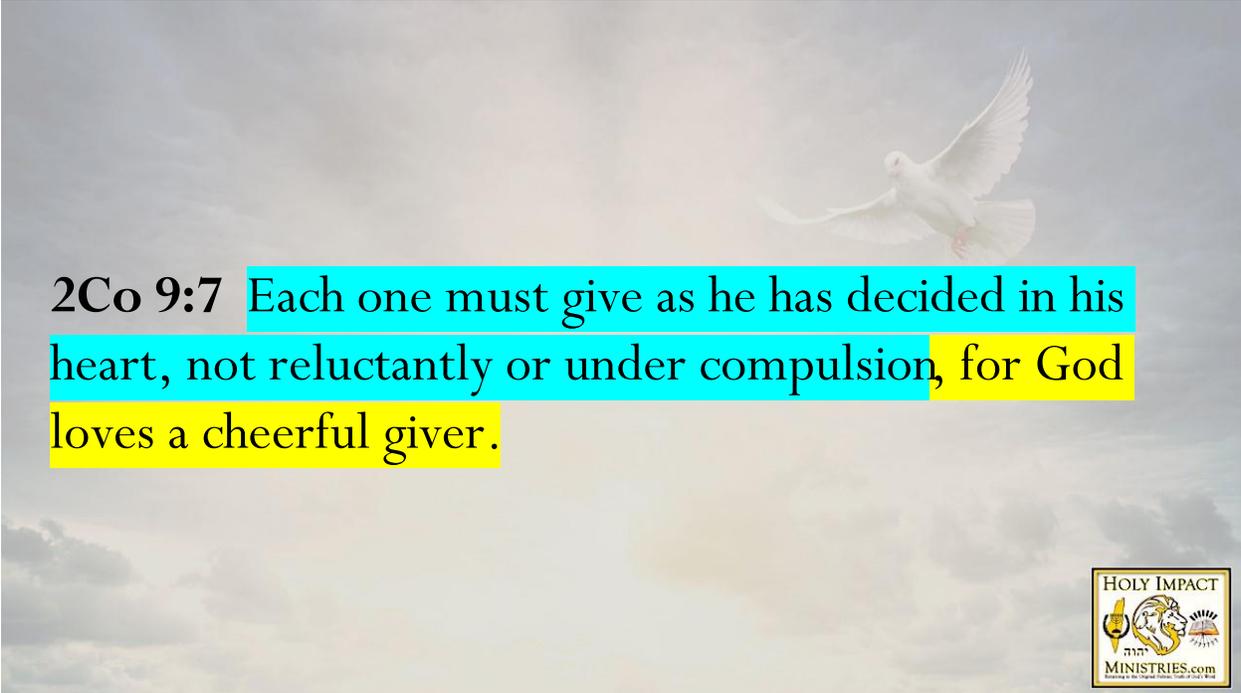


We are seeing Abram giving to someone else... in order to honor and

glorify God.

You see, this was the original definition of a “tithe”. The reason that the tithe from that point on was known as a tenth... is because this is what Abram originally established here in Genesis chapter 14. But... we must be adult enough to understand that the tithe established by Abraham was a gift from Abraham to someone else which would have been the high priest Melchizedek in order to honor and glorify Yehovah God. Do we see that here? Is this starting to make sense?

And so what is the real definition of a tithe? It is a gift given by one person to another person in order to honor and glorify Yehvoah God. That my friends is that proper definition of a “tithe” according to Scripture. (scrn 7)



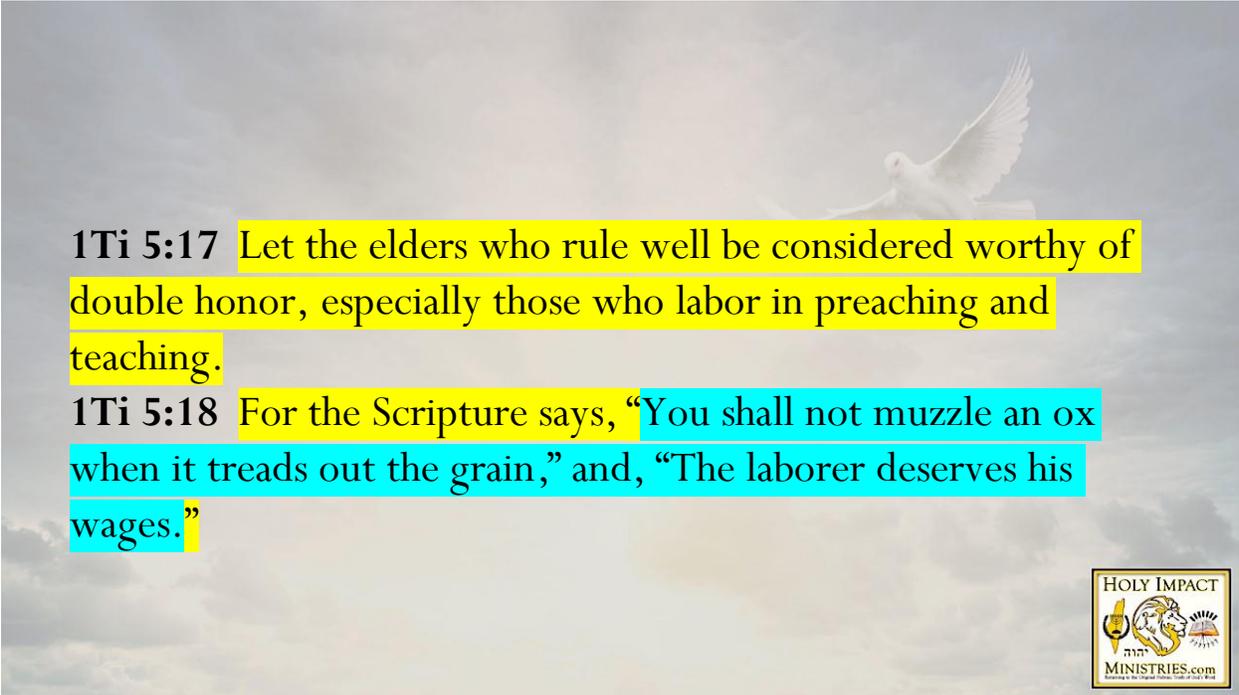
2Co 9:7 Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.



And therefore, even though the tithe was seen as 10% in the Old Testament because that’s what Abraham established it as... this does not mean that the tithe is still supposed to be 10% in the New Testament. We must remember that we no longer have a Temple because the Temple has

been brought to desolation because of the abominations that were drug into it by the Rabbis. And most of us are scattered among the nations today in our time. And therefore, a tithe today is still commanded just as we see in 2nd Corinthians 9:7 of the New Testament, and again in 1st Corinthians chapter 9 verse 14 but... the tithe that we are called to give today although still a commandment is a gift of what we are able to give however... it is still a gift from us to someone else that glorifies God. And it can be any amount. It no longer has to be 10%. But it is still a gift given from one person to another person in order to glorify Yehovah God. That's what the proper spiritual understanding of what the tithe is.

Some people refer to it as a “free will offering”. But the so called “free will offering” is nothing more than a re-labeled tithe that is still commanded by Yehvoah God our Father in heaven. Once again it is written (**scrn 8**)



1Ti 5:17 Let the elders who rule well be considered worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in preaching and teaching.

1Ti 5:18 For the Scripture says, “You shall not muzzle an ox when it treads out the grain,” and, “The laborer deserves his wages.”

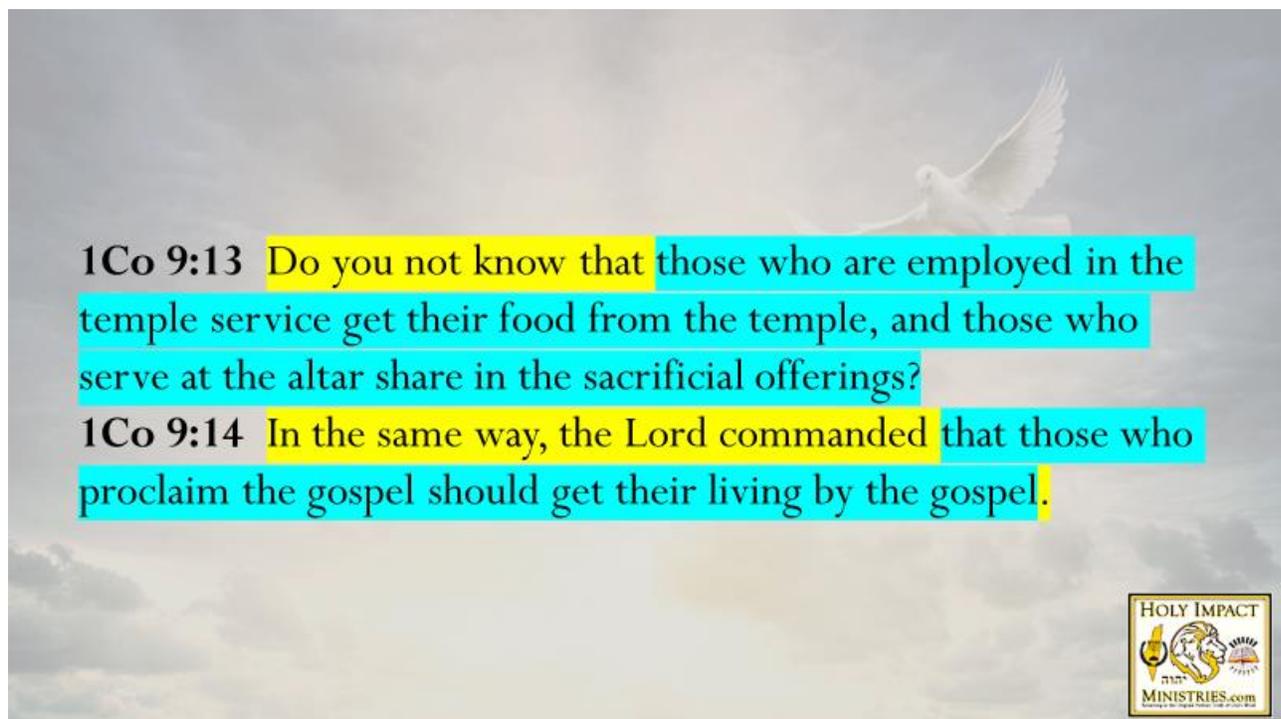


Once again, those who are stuck on the letter of the law will never understand the spiritual meaning of the law. There will always be those who will try to justify themselves by the letter of the law while never

understanding what the law meant or why the law was put into place in the first place.

And this is exactly why Paul equates the Levitical priesthood who worked at the Temple and the altar with those who preach the word of God today in our time.

Today a tithe that is given to those who work his altar and preach his word clearly does not have to be 10%. **(scrn 9 show)**



But that tithe is still commanded just as Paul tells us that it is commanded in first Corinthians chapter 9 verse 14. The tithe today in our time that we give from one person to another person in order to glorify Yehovah God no longer carries with it a 10% mandate. But it is still a tithe because it is still a gift given from one person to another person in order to glorify God as God has commanded.

Now... there is something else that is important to understand concerning those who preach the gospel today that have been called by

Yehovah God to essentially work his altar.

There are far too many people in the world today who think that they are very pious just like the Pharisees and the scribes of our Messiah's time thought that they were very pious. The term "holier than thou" certainly does indeed describe these kinds of people well just as it did the Pharisees and the scribes of our Messiah's time who were making up all kinds of laws according to themselves. And we still see people doing these things today in our time lets be clear.

And many of these holy rollers will attempt to proclaim that the apostle Paul never took any funding from the assemblies because he worked as a tent maker to make his money. And they will wrongly proclaim that the apostle Paul should be the example of all preachers today. But once again, I would submit to you that they simply have not read their Bibles for themselves. Some of them may have read their Bibles in part... but just as is so often the case... they have not read the book in its entirety for themselves. And this is exactly why they are ignorant and unstudied in the matter of which they speak. And I don't want us to be ignorant and unstudied concerning these things. And therefore, I would like us to turn to **first Corinthians chapter 9 and I would like for us to read verses 11 through 15 E3**

1Co 9:11 If we have sown spiritual things among you, is it too much if we reap material things from you?

1Co 9:12 If others share this rightful claim on you, do not we even more? Nevertheless, we have not made use of this right, but we endure anything rather than put an obstacle in the way of the gospel of Christ.

1Co 9:13 Do you not know that those who are employed in the temple service get their food from the temple, and those who serve at the altar share in the sacrificial offerings?

1Co 9:14 In the same way, the Lord commanded that those who proclaim the gospel should get their living by the gospel.

1Co 9:15 But I have made no use of any of these rights, nor am I writing these things to secure any such provision. For I would rather die than have anyone deprive me of my ground for boasting.

One of the first things that we hear the apostle say here in first Corinthians chapter 9 verse 11 is that if we have sown spiritual things among you... is it too much if we reap material things from you?

Once again, Paul is not telling people not to give tithes and offerings to people who preach the gospel. In fact... he goes on once again in verses 13 and 14 to tie together the Levitical priesthood that worked at the temple and those who preach the gospel.

Now... many people will point to first Corinthians chapter 9 verse 15 where Paul begins to boast pridefully. The apostle Paul pridefully says and I quote, "I have made no use of any of these rights, nor am I writing these things to secure any such provision. For I would rather die than have anyone deprive me of my ground for boasting.

And I would like us to stop and think about that for just a moment. Let me ask you a question... what right does Paul have to boast about the gospel? What right did the apostle Paul have in the gospel of Yehovah God? Was the gospel Paul's gospel or God's gospel? Did the apostle Paul come up with this plan of salvation himself? What right does any pastor have to boast about the word of Yehovah God or the salvation that Yehovah God himself has extended to a wicked and lawless mankind?

Should we boast about the fact that our Messiah had to be beaten and whipped and scourged and hung on a tree because of our wickedness? Should we boast about the fact that we were so wicked and so depraved that Yehovah God had to give his only begotten Son so that we would not perish?

I think it's important to understand that Yehovah God gave the apostle Paul an ailment that Paul could not get rid of for a reason. Yehovah God gave the apostle Paul a thorn in his side because of his boastfulness and we can read that in **second Corinthians chapter 12 E4**

2Co 12:7 So to keep me from becoming conceited because of the

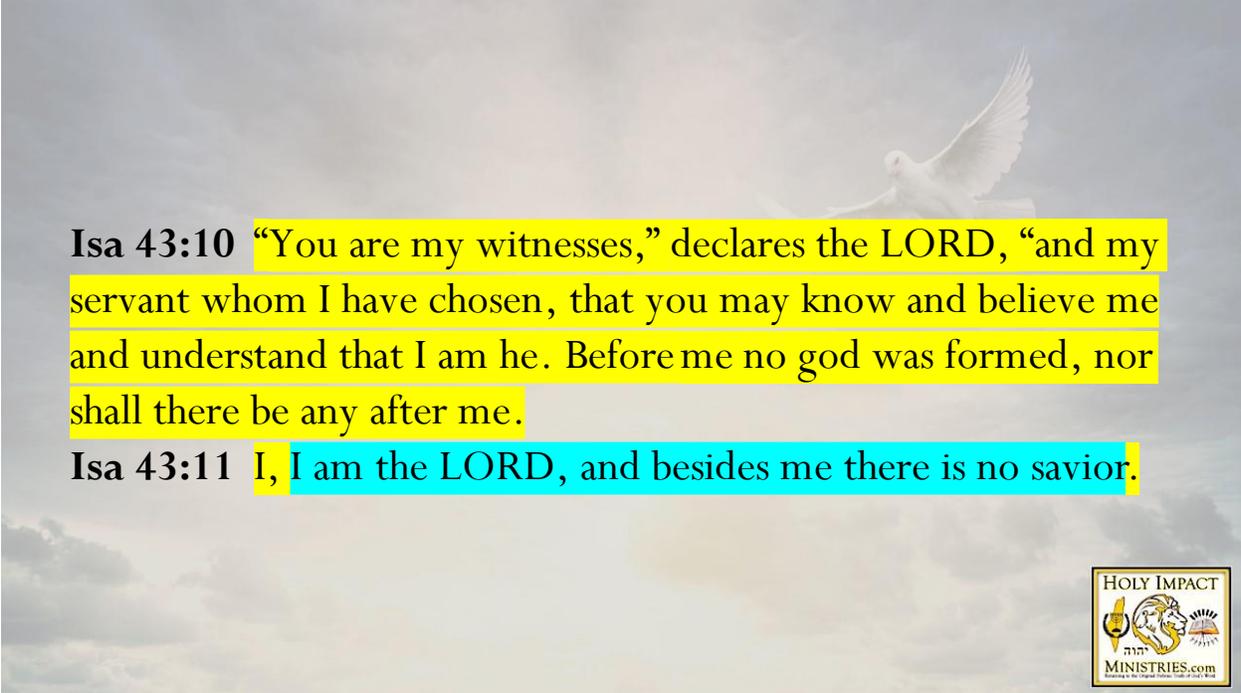
surpassing greatness of the revelations, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to harass me, to keep me from becoming conceited.

2Co 12:8 Three times I pleaded with the Lord about this, that it should leave me.

2Co 12:9 But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

Why was it that the apostle Paul was given this thorn in his side? Clearly... it was to keep him from becoming conceited because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations that had been given to him. It was because of his boasting! It was because of his boasting that Yehovah God gave him this thorn in his side in the first place. And when the apostle Paul prayed three different times asking Yehovah God to remove that thorn from him, Yehovah God said no... that his grace was sufficient for Paul. And why was that? Because Yehovah God knew how boastful the apostle Paul was and in order to keep the apostle Paul from becoming conceited just like the devil had become conceited... Yehovah God kept that thorn in the side of the apostle Paul in order to keep him at bay.

All throughout the writings of first and second Corinthians we hear the apostle Paul boasting over, and over, and over again. And this clearly was not something that Yehovah God was pleased with. Think about what Yehvoah God must have been thinking about all of this boasting that Paul was doing. We must remember that it is written that there is only one savior and that is Yehvoah God who established a plan of salvation for mankind in the first place. **(scrn 10)**



Isa 43:10 “You are my witnesses,” declares the LORD, “and my servant whom I have chosen, that you may know and believe me and understand that I am he. Before me no god was formed, nor shall there be any after me.

Isa 43:11 I, I am the LORD, and besides me there is no savior.



And so, the question then becomes did the apostle Paul except support from the assemblies? Or did the apostle Paul work as a tent maker the whole time he preached and did he refuse money and monetary support from the assemblies as so many wrongly proclaim?

The answer to that question is found within the pages of our Bibles in **second Corinthians chapter 11 verse 8 (scrn 11)**

2Co 11:7 Or did I commit a sin in humbling myself so that you might be exalted, because I preached God's gospel to you free of charge?

2Co 11:8 I robbed other churches by accepting support from them in order to serve you.

2Co 11:9 And when I was with you and was in need, I did not burden anyone, for the brothers who came from Macedonia supplied my need. So I refrained and will refrain from burdening you in any way.



Clearly, right here in second Corinthians the apostle Paul tells us that he robbed other assemblies by accepting support from them in order to serve the assembly at Corinth for free. Paul never says that he did not except support from the churches. In fact... the apostle Paul tells us very clearly that he robbed other churches so that he would have support in order that he could serve the church at Corinth because the church at Corinth was a poor church. They were a poor assembly. And right here in second Corinthians chapter 11 verse nine we are told by the apostle Paul that he did not burden the assembly at Corinth why?... Because the brothers who came from Macedonia and that assembly supplied his need. Get that my friends... the Assembly in Macedonia supplied his need.

And so, what we are seeing here is that the apostle Paul most certainly did receive support from the other assemblies. The only reason that he did not accept support from the assembly in Corinth was because they were not able to give it. Why did Paul work as a tent maker to make extra money? Because he knew that the assembly in Corinth needed help. Paul did not work as a tent maker everywhere he went. Although

I'm sure that he did work on jobs as he traveled about because back then it would have taken a great amount of time to get any tithes and offerings from any of the assemblies to him. We must remember that there were no airplanes and automobiles, nor were there banks and electronic transfers and credit cards back in those days. So you did what you had to do in order to survive.

Keeping all of this in mind, my hope and my prayer is that we will stick to what the Bible says and turn away from what the Bible does not say. My hope and my prayer is that we will give glory and honor to each other so that our Father in heaven will be glorified and honored as he has commanded. You see this is why it is written that the greatest commandment is that we love our Father in heaven with all of our heart and all of our mind and all of our soul and the second greatest commandment is that we love each other.

The truth of the matter is that if we do not love one another, then we do not love our Father in heaven. **(scrn 12 show)**

A "tithe" was given by someone, to someone else in order to honor and glorify Yehvoah God. And the "tithe" started with Abraham who gave to the High Priest Melchizedek a gift in order to honor Yehovah God.

Gen 14:20



The tithe has always been about a gift that was given by someone to someone else in order to honor and glorify Yehovah God. That has always been the definition and the purpose of the biblical tithe and it always will be. And although the tithe no longer requires 10% of someone's income, it is still a gift that is given by someone to someone else in order to glorify Yehovah God as he has commanded.

And my hope and my prayer is that we understand the true biblical definition and meaning of the tithe and its purpose and not just what we read according to the letter. Because I tell you the truth... far too many Christians today just like the Israelites back in the days of Moses cannot see past the letter of the law. They have no spiritual eyes to see, and they have no spiritual ears to hear with. And it is for this reason that they claim to be wise all the while never understanding that they have essentially become... fools.

Let us not fall into these entrapments. Let us not only understand the letter of the law... but also the greater meaning of the commandment and its purpose and it's objective. Let us ask our Father in heaven for his discernment so that we may properly understand. Let us not read our Bibles alone. But let us always read our Bibles with the Ruach Hakodesh of Yehovah our Elohim entrenched deeply within us. And let us not rest on our own understanding, but on the understanding that has been granted to us from on high.

I would love to continue on in this particular study but for this evening my hope and my prayer is that we have done a good job in clarifying the true biblical definition of the tithe and what it meant back in Moses' day and what it means today in our time. And we will talk more in depth about the biblical definition of the tithe and why it's no longer is tied to 10% during our next study into Deuteronomy chapter 14 next Wednesday evening at 7 PM Eastern standard Time.

There is much, much more to know about the biblical tithe and how it affects us today. We have only scratched the surface this evening, but we

will pick up where we left off this next coming Wednesday.

Until that point in time, I will simply ask everyone within the sound of my voice to please take what you have heard here this evening to your own prayer closet. Bow your head and bend your knee, and face the holy promised land of Jerusalem, and ask in the name of Yeshua Hamashiach if what you have heard here today be true or not. Ask, seek, and knock on his door and on his door alone so that the proper door can be opened unto you. And if you will do that, and if you will stay the course to the end, you and I will surely walk through the gates of his soon coming kingdom together.