



## ***TITHES SACRILEGE LAMENTATION***

***Louie Johnston Jr. October 2016***

I love “The Church” of Jesus Christ my Lord and Savior, since my Mamaw walked my little 2-year-old legs to Church with her every Sunday, where those loving ladies were so kind to me, serving Kool Aid and cookies while telling me about this wonderful Jesus that loved me. I love the Church, the bride of Christ, the worship, Bible training from preschool to seniors... all of it.

I was raised since preschool age that God required me to PAY my Tithe, defined as giving 10% of all money I got to God Almighty Himself by putting it in the Offering Plate at Church. I was taught that the 10% was not my money, but it belonged to God. Not paying Tithes is stealing.

The truth however is that there is no such thing as a Tithing Plate or basket passed from pew to pew to collect tithes. There is only an Offering plate passed from pew to pew to collect “Tithes and Offerings”, so they are never kept separated as God clearly commanded. This is sacrilege committed by The Church, thus it is my Lamentation personally and for The Church I love.

Failure to keep Tithes separated from Offerings is a sacrilege to God, because mixing them starts the process of stealing Tithes from the ONLY purpose they are to be spent to achieve, “So there may be food in my house...” to feed those who can’t provide for themselves in the local community. That’s right, I said it, because the Bible says it clearly, which means The Church is disobeying God because Christians won’t simply read the Bible for themselves, including Pastors and Evangelists like me that were raised to obey whatever our Religious Leaders said. It is now my burden and task to expose this sacrilege for lamentation, repentance, accountability.

God forgive me and The Church for The Church robs God, by stealing tithes. We must repent.

***These 3 points are incontrovertible from God’s word and history confirms it.***

- 1. Tithes are only to be spent to feed those who can’t provide for themselves.***
- 2. Offerings are to build, staff and supply the Church.***
- 3. Keeping Tithes and Offerings separated and spent only for their intended purpose is the spiritual and fiduciary duty of every Christian, including Pastors, Deacons, Elders.***

Before going public with my research and lamentation, I asked pastors from many denominations to review it and advise me of ANY error or omission they found and give me Biblical proof if any existed. None of the pastors found ANY error or omission in any response I received.

First, Tithing was God’s way thousands of years before Christ and The Church came into existence, so Preaching Tithing is a requirement of God to fund “The Church” is not found in The Holy Bible, period.

TITHES have always been God’s way to provide for those who could not provide for themselves. Tithes are very clearly commanded in The Holy Bible as is the sole purpose of ‘TITHES’ collected. God’s TITHES system was first perverted by the Jewish Rabbis, who ended the third tithe entirely. The Catholic Church leaders followed that lead, abused their authority as well, collecting tithes from the masses, but spending them on themselves and luxurious facilities all over the world. At least Catholics spend a small portion for God’s purposes, to feed the local poor & needy. Protestant Churches originally tried to care for the poor & needy in their local community, but Protestant Church leaders today blatantly collect and spend TITHES to pay for their multi- million dollar facilities and staff salaries while the local Homeless, Poor & Needy get zero food or help. This sacrilege of God’s system of TITHES is incontrovertible if you can read and care. I can read and I care.

<b>Tithe</b>	<b>To whom or for what purpose</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Scripture</b>
First tithe	Food for the Levites, as their salary for working at the Temple to slaughter animals, light lamps, clean up.	annually	<a href="#">Num 18:21</a> , <a href="#">Heb 7:5</a> , <a href="#">2 Chron 31:4-7</a> , <a href="#">2 Chron 31:4-7</a>
Second tithe	For food to be eaten by all Jews attending the annual feasts in Jerusalem, to thank, bless and honor God.	annually	<a href="#">Deut 12:5-7</a> , <a href="#">Deut 12:17-18</a> , <a href="#">Deut 14:22-26</a>
<b><u>Third tithe</u></b>	For food for the Levite, stranger, widows, orphans, all who could not provide for themselves because they had no land to grow their own food. TITHES serve those with no means to provide.	<b><u>Every third year</u></b> (the third and sixth year of the Sabbatical cycle) all the tithes, 100% of all tithes collected are designated for food for those unable to provide for themselves and their families.	<a href="#">Deut 14:28-29</a> , <a href="#">Deut 26:12</a> , <a href="#">Amos 4:4</a>
Giving	<b><u>To anyone in need</u></b>	<b><u>always</u></b>	<a href="#">Deut 15:7-8</a>

Who/what/how is the third tithe really to be used... NOT one dime is for buildings, staff, salaries, supplies, missionaries or “programs”...every 3<sup>rd</sup> year 100% of tithes must be spent on the local poor that cannot provide for themselves. Do you know of any Churches obeying that command? If so, do they have a “storehouse” of free food to feed the local poor that cannot provide for themselves? A Church accepting Tithes without having such a Storehouse is not obeying God’s word.

The third tithe is for those without inheritance or inheritance rights. Scripture details who it is for:

Deuteronomy 26:12

<sup>12</sup> *“When you have finished paying all the tithe of your increase **in the third year, the year of tithing, then you shall give it to the Levite, to the stranger, to the orphan and to the widow, that they may eat in your towns and be satisfied.**”*

This tithe is generally referred to as the **poor tithe and is to be given to those in society who lacks. Widows, orphans, strangers** and the Levites were in ancient times **those people without land and could not provide**



**for themselves.** God has provided for these people through this tithe. **This tithe was to be taken to the storehouse in your town and was used to help these people.** It would have been enough to supply their needs for three years, until the next three-year tithe was brought. The tithe brought in the sixth year would have been enough to last for four years. This is possible, because God said he would provide enough in the sixth year.

### **Why Tithe at all if they are not spent as God commands?**

The book of Malachi has a few things to say about tithing. This Torah passage might be the most perverted scripture, quoting only the first half of the sentence of Malachi 3:10, then deliberately leading people to believe that “The Church” is the “storehouse”, but the tithes are stolen from the LOCAL poor & needy as the third-year tithe clearly demands. This tithe is the most neglected tithe of all. This is not an easy commandment to keep. God wants us to give another ten percent on top of the other two tithes. Is He asking too much? Are we not willing to give it? All we have, He has given us. Can we not give this to show our faithfulness? Abraham was willing to give his only son, but most of us are not willing to give an extra 10% of our income, therefore the poor & needy suffer in our backyards while funds God intends for them are spent on everything except them.

Are you choosing another interpretation just so you can get out of this or have you just been misled by someone trained in error with their own personal agenda instead of God’s agenda?

Here is the passage in Malachi, read this and consider what is said here. It is a strong rebuke, but repentance and obedience will result in great blessing.

Malachi 3:7–12

<sup>7</sup> *“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 YHVH of hosts. “But you say, ‘How shall we return?’”<sup>8</sup> “Will a man rob Elohim? Yet you are robbing Me! But you say, ‘**How have we robbed You? In tithes and offerings.**’<sup>9</sup> “**You are cursed with a curse, for you are robbing Me, the whole nation of you!**”<sup>10</sup> “**Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, so that there may be food in My house,** and test Me now in this,” says YHVH of hosts, “if I will not open for you the windows of heaven and pour out for you a blessing until it overflows.”<sup>11</sup> “**Then** I will rebuke the devourer for you, so that it will not destroy the fruits of the ground; nor will your vine in the field cast its grapes,” says YHVH of hosts.<sup>12</sup> “All the nations will call you blessed, for you shall be a delightful land,” says YHVH of hosts.*

*Old Testament: “Glorify the Lord generously, and do not stint the first fruits of your hands. With every gift show a cheerful face, and dedicate your tithe with gladness.” - Sirach 35:8-9 (RSVCE) (Catholic Bible)*

*New Testament: “In everything I did, I showed you that by this kind of hard work **we must help the weak, remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'**” - Acts 20:35*

*Early Christians: “All the believers were together and had everything in common. Selling their possessions and goods, **they gave to anyone as he had need.**” - Acts 2:44-45*

## **MAKE CERTAIN YOU UNDERSTAND THE DIFFERENCE IN “TITHES” and “OFFERINGS”!**

**ONLY** freewill offerings taken up are to pay salaries, buy land, build facilities, send missionaries out... that's right missionaries and foreign missions are to funded 100% by freewill offerings as the early Church did for the apostles. Not one nickel of TITHES was spent on these purposes. ONLY **“offerings”** were collected for these purposes, all good purposes to advance God's kingdom and The Great Commission, but not by stealing tithes God intends to feed and care for those IN THEIR TOWNS who cannot provide for themselves.

WHERE is a single scripture that commands or authorizes in ANY way that TITHES can be spent on facilities, programs, missions or salaries? “The laborer is worthy of his wages” is true, but wages are paid by OFFERINGS, not tithes, as tithes are sacred to God for HIS intended purposes to FEED THE HUNGRY.

“TITHES are meant for the Levites” (Jewish Priests) is the other standard justification for collecting Tithes and spending them on everything but the local poor and needy, but first, that argument just condemns conclusively that spending tithes for Church buildings, facilities, land, programs, advertising is absolute disobedience to God.

Secondly, the reason God “included” the Levites was to provide for their food since they had no land to grow it themselves, the same as the “stranger”/homeless, widows, orphans. Their tithes to Levites were their payroll earned by their hard work of slaughtering the animals brought to the Temple to sacrifice in worship to God, to clean up the bloody messes constantly made, haul those carcasses out and burn them, clean up, light the lamps, keep everything in the Temple area in order.

Do you know ANY PASTORS or staff today in the USA that are banned from owning land to grow their own food or work to provide for themselves and their families? Nope. Pastors today sell books, dvds, have television programs, have their own Non-Profit organizations they make money from, have houses and land they could grow their own food if they chose to do so... so that dog just won't hunt to claim TITHES God intended to provide food for the Jewish Levites/Priests is the same as paying salaries and benefits to Church pastors or staff members. It is not the same, nor is it even close to being the same.

No Priest, Pastor, Preacher or staff member labors in the Temple slaughtering animals or cleaning up bloody messes, so no, the TITHE is NOT for them...this is the purpose of OFFERINGS, not tithes.

## **WHAT SCRIPTURES DEFINE THE COMMANDED USE OF GOD'S TITHES?**

Deuteronomy 14...

12 When you have finished setting aside a tenth of all your produce in the third year, the year of the tithe, you shall give it to the Levite, the **foreigner**, the **fatherless** and the **widow**, **so that they may eat in your towns and be satisfied**. (Local poor & needy were of equal importance with the Levites, per God.)

<sup>22</sup> Be sure to set aside a tenth of all that your fields produce each year. <sup>23</sup> Eat the tithe of your grain, new wine and olive oil, and the firstborn of your herds and flocks in the presence of the Lord your God at the place he will choose as a dwelling for his Name, so that you may learn to revere the Lord your God always. <sup>24</sup> But if

that place is too distant and you have been blessed by the Lord your God and cannot carry your tithe (because the place where the Lord will choose to put his Name is so far away),<sup>25</sup> then exchange your tithe for silver, and take the silver with you and go to the place the Lord your God will choose.<sup>26</sup> Use the silver to buy whatever you like: cattle, sheep, wine or other fermented drink or anything you wish. Then you and your household shall eat there in the presence of the Lord your God and rejoice. I<sup>27</sup> And do not neglect the Levites living in your towns, **for they have no allotment or inheritance of their own.**

**<sup>28</sup> At the end of every three years, bring all the tithes of that year's produce and store it in your towns<sup>29</sup> so that the Levites (who have no allotment or inheritance of their own) and the foreigners the fatherless and the widows who live in your towns may come and eat and be satisfied and so that the Lord your God may bless you in all the work of your hands.**

Did you catch that... **ALL** of the **TITHE** for that **3<sup>RD</sup> YEAR YOU SHALL STORE IN YOUR TOWNS!**  
*Deuteronomy 14:28* “At the end of three years you shall bring out all of the tithe of your yield for that year, and **you shall store it in your towns.**

**For what purpose...***Deuteronomy 26:12* “When you have finished paying **all the tithe** of your increase **in the third year, the year of tithing,** then you shall give it to the Levite, **to the stranger, to the orphan and to the widow, that they may eat in your towns and be satisfied.**

How long did the Jews obey God in giving 1/3 of ALL TITHES to feed the local people who could not provide for themselves? How about at least 1,000 years! Deuteronomy scripture above was written around 1410 B.C. and 2 Chronicles below was written around 450 to 425 B.C. so we know it was at least 1,000 years.

#### 2 Chronicles 31

<sup>5</sup> As soon as the order went out, the Israelites generously gave the first fruits of their grain, new wine, olive oil and honey and all that the fields produced. They brought a great amount, a tithe of everything. <sup>6</sup> The people of Israel and Judah who lived in the towns of Judah also brought a tithe of their herds and flocks **and** a tithe of the holy things dedicated to the Lord their God, and they piled them in heaps. <sup>7</sup> They began doing this in the third month and finished in the seventh month. <sup>8</sup> When Hezekiah and his officials came and saw the heaps, they praised the Lord and blessed his people Israel.

<sup>9</sup> Hezekiah asked the priests and Levites about the heaps; <sup>10</sup> and Azariah the chief priest, from the family of Zadok, answered, **“Since the people began to bring their contributions to the temple of the Lord, we have had enough to eat and plenty to spare,** because the Lord has blessed his people, and this great amount is left over.”

<sup>11</sup> Hezekiah gave orders to **prepare storerooms in the temple of the Lord,** and this was done. <sup>12</sup> Then they faithfully brought in the **contributions, tithes and dedicated gifts.** Koinonia a Levite, was the overseer in charge of these things, and his brother Shimei was next in rank.

**NOTE** – there is a difference in these three things because each had a different purpose... **Contributions, Tithes, Dedicated gifts**...each one God honors if we honor HIS intent and purposes for each of these and do not steal from one to claim it is the other and spend it for something God did not intend for it to be spent on... no excuse for not obeying God. So how does God feel about doing so... we see in the book of Malachi, written around 450-400 B.C. after 1,000 years of Jews spending **1/3 of ALL TITHES** to feed the local needy.

**Malachi 3:8-10...** <sup>8</sup> “Will a mere mortal rob God? Yet you rob me. “But you ask, ‘How are we robbing you?’ “In tithes and offerings. <sup>9</sup> You are under a curse—**your whole nation**—because you are robbing me. <sup>10</sup> **Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house.** Test me in this,” says the Lord Almighty, “and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it.

TOBIT (Catholic Bible) Chapter 1... (By the way, this book was in the original King James version also)

<sup>6</sup> Often I was quite alone in making the pilgrimage to Jerusalem, fulfilling the [Law](#) that binds all Israel perpetually. I would hurry to [Jerusalem](#) with the first yield of fruits and beasts, the tithe of cattle and the sheep's first shearings.

<sup>7</sup> I would give these to the priests, the sons of Aaron, for the altar. To the [Levites](#) ministering at Jerusalem would give my tithe of wine and corn, olives, pomegranates and other fruits. Six years in succession I took the second tithe in money and went and paid it annually at Jerusalem.

<sup>8</sup> **I gave the third to orphans and widows and to the strangers who live among the Israelites; I brought it them as a gift every three years.** When we ate, we obeyed both the ordinances of the [law](#) of [Moses](#) and the exhortations of Deborah the mother of our ancestor Ananiel; for my father had died and left me an orphan.

#### TOBIT CHAPTER 4...

<sup>7</sup> **'Set aside part of your goods for almsgiving. Never turn your face from the poor** and [God will](#) never turn his from you.

<sup>8</sup> **Measure your alms by what you have; if you have much, give more; if you have little, do not be afraid to give less in alms.**

<sup>9</sup> So doing, you [will](#) lay up for yourself a great treasure for the day of necessity.

<sup>10</sup> **For almsgiving delivers from death and saves people from passing down to darkness.**

<sup>11</sup> Almsgiving is a most effective offering for all those who do it in the presence of the Most High.

<sup>16</sup> **'Give your bread to those who are hungry, and your clothes to those who lack clothing. Of whatever you own in plenty, devote a proportion to almsgiving; and when you give alms, do it ungrudgingly.**

#### Principles of Tithing:

a) Give back to the Lord in gratitude a portion of everything God has given, whether through paychecks, dividends, unexpected windfalls, Social Security payments, allowances or gifts.

b) See the tithe as a sacrifice, a donation that seems almost more than affordable, an offering that “makes holy” (the literal meaning of the word “sacrifice”) all the efforts and earnings of the past month.

c) Use whatever means the Local Community may use to identify your tithes as being a gift from God’s hands through you, so God is honored when people see your commitment to regular support of the Community.

#### Historical references to the third-year tithe

A quote from the “Antiquities of the Jews” by Josephus Flavius, a Jewish historian who lived about the time of Y’shua, documented the understanding of his time regarding the first and second tithe and how it was appropriated. He has great historic credibility because he was also from the priestly line.

*“Let there be taken out of your fruits a tenth, besides that which you have allotted to give to the priests and Levites. This you may indeed sell in the country, but it is to be used in those feasts and sacrifices that are to be celebrated in the holy city: for it is fit that you should enjoy those fruits of the earth which God gives you to possess”* (Antiquities 4:8:8).

It is spoken of two different tithes here given in the same year, namely the tithe for the Levite and the tithe for the feasts. He later writes about another **tithe paid every third year in addition to the other two tithes.**

**Josephus clearly states, about the third tithe, that this tithe collected for the poor was different from the other two:**

**“Besides those two tithes, which I have already said you are to pay every year, the one for the Levites, the other for the festivals, you are to bring every third year a third tithe to be distributed to those that want [i.e., lack]; to women also that are widows, and to children that are orphans” (Antiquities 4: 8:22).**

Clearly Jesus and his contemporary historians knew and OBEYED God’s intent and purpose for 1/3 of ALL TITHES, which is reflected throughout the Holy Bible in the words of Jesus and many others, the purpose of TITHES is to provide for those who cannot provide for themselves IN THEIR LOCAL COMMUNITIES!

**“Besides those two tithes, which I have already said you are to pay every year, the one for the Levites, the other for the festivals, you are to bring every third year a third tithe to be distributed to those that want [i.e., lack]; to women also that are widows, and to children that are orphans” (Antiquities 4: 8:22).**

The Waldenses existed in the 1500’s. They observed an earlier historical writing of Passagini regarding the giving of tithes and purpose for tithes. I use this incontrovertible historic reference because most people will say that the Temple and Levites are a prerequisite for all tithing. This shows that it was probable that this tithe was still given, even after the destruction of the Temple. **It makes perfect sense to me, as the widows and orphans and strangers will always be among us, as Y’shua also said (Matt 26:11).**

*“The Waldenses recognized that they were the true successors of the apostolic church. They kept the Sabbath and also the yearly Passover.*

*In about 1200 A.D, under the name of Passagini, we have a very clear picture that these people observed the whole Old Testament law—including the Sabbath and festivals—even though the Catholic Inquisitors zealously burned the records about anyone living God’s way of life at that time! (That’s one thing to be said for the Roman Catholic Church: It is very diligent at certain things, including feeding the hungry, but often led in the wrong direction because of evil and misguided leaders, and mankind and The Universal Church suffers by it.)*

*The membership paid a three-part division of tithes to God through the ministry of the Waldensian church. **Even in the 1500’s, the same division [of tithing] still continued** among the Waldensians.*

*In his book, History of the Waldenses, the author (Leonard) quoted George Morel, a Waldensian elder, as saying: “The money given us by the people is carried to the aforesaid general council, and is delivered in the presence of all, and there it is received by the most ancients [that is, the elders], and **part thereof is given to those that are wayfaring men, according to their necessities, and part unto the poor.**”*

*So, George Morel actually mentions a “second tithe,” apparently for those traveling to and from the festivals; and following it, [he mentions] **the “third tithe,” which goes to the poor.** Feast goers who had more “second tithe” than they needed shared their excess with those in need at that time as well. So, we see there that they had not just a little bit of God’s truth, but quite a bit—probably most of God’s truth, as we have it today.”*

**THE OLDEST CHURCH IN HISTORY TELLS THE TRUTH ABOUT TITHES...**

<http://www.catholic.com/quickquestions/what-is-the-churchs-position-on-tithing>

“Although the Church teaches that offering some form of material support to the Church is obligatory for all Catholic adults who are able to do so, it doesn't specify what percent of one's income should be given. Remember, tithing was an Old Testament obligation that was incumbent on the Jews under the Law of Moses.

Christians are dispensed from the obligation of tithing ten percent of their incomes, but not from the obligation to help the Church. EVERY Christian should support the Church financially. I am honored to do so.

The key to understanding how God wants us to give to the Church is found in 1 Corinthians 16:2, "On the first day of the week [Sunday] each of you should set aside whatever he can afford," and in 2 Corinthians 9:5-8,

So, I thought it necessary to encourage the brothers to go on ahead to you and arrange in advance for your promised gift [donation], so that in this way it might be ready as a bountiful gift and not as an exaction. Consider this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each must do as already determined without sadness or compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. Moreover, God is able to make every grace abundant for you, so that in all things, always having all you need, you may have an abundance for every good work.

To paraphrase: God doesn't demand a fixed amount of money from us; he wants us to give from the heart. If people are forced by their church to give a certain percent of their income, that's extortion. If they give freely and cheerfully the amount they are able, that's a gift."

**CONCLUSION...** Clearly "The Church" preaching tithing, collecting those tithes but not obeying God to provide for the LOCAL NEEDY who cannot provide for themselves, is the responsibility of every Christian to respectfully demand correction, repentance and restitution made in full. Stealing tithes from the local poor is sacrilege we must stop immediately and repent with restitution, not lip service.

**Additional passages on the biblical basis of tithing are:** Dt 12:17-18; 14:22-29; 15:7-11; 26:1-15; Nm 18:21-32; Neh 10:36-40; 13:4-5, 10-14; Sir 35:1-10; Mt 23:23-24; Lk 11:42-44; 12:1-5; 16:1-13; 16:19-31; 18:25; Acts 2:42-45; 4:32-35; 2 Cor 8:2; 9:7; Jas 2:15-17.

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