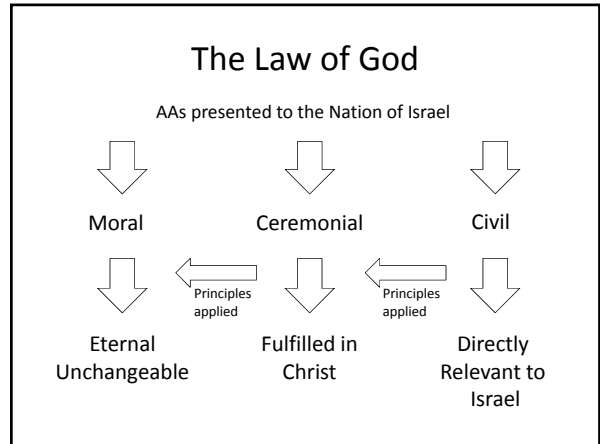


Tithing and Giving

What is the lesson for today's
Christian in Shalom Church



Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill. For assuredly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, one jot or one tittle will by no means pass from the law till all is fulfilled.

Matthew 5:17-18

Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to **fulfill**. For assuredly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, one jot or one tittle will by no means pass from the law till all is fulfilled.

Matthew 5:17-18

By implication, to fill out, complete, make perfect, accomplish an end

(The complete Word Study Bible Dictionary)

Full time ministry

- God do call men to serve him on a full time basis, the calling is to teach His Word and to pastor/shepherd His flock.

The work of pastors being constantly to attend the service of Christ, in his churches, in the ministry of the word and prayer, with watching for their souls, as they that must give an account to Him; it is incumbent on the churches to whom they minister, not only to give them all due respect, but also to communicate to them of all their good things according to their ability, so as they may have a comfortable supply, without being themselves entangled in secular affairs; and may also be capable of exercising hospitality towards others; and this is required by the law of nature, and by the express order of our Lord Jesus, who hath ordained that they that preach the Gospel should live of the Gospel

(Acts 6:4; Heb. 13:17; 1 Tim. 5:17, 18; Gal. 6:6, 7; 2.Tim. 2:4; 1 Tim. 3:2; 1 Cor. 9:6-14)

Full time ministry

- Such men should be supported by those whom they minister
 - Comfortable supply (LCF 26:10)
 - Generous (Numbers 18)

How are they supported in the OT

- Tithes and First-fruits
- Redemption and Sacrifices

Tithe and First-fruits

- Simply means 1 part in 10
- Message:
 - “God bless you with the Land, so all its produces are given by God. It is therefore fitting to acknowledge God’s blessing by giving him the best and first-fruits of all the Land’s produces”
- In practice, it should provide equitable distribution even to the Levites

Tithing

- It is a special arrangement under the Sinai Covenant
 - No such arrangement for the patriarchs
 - The tithe arrangement is limited to agricultural produces
 - No special teaching on this matter in the New Testaments (e.g. 1 Cor 9:3-12; 1 Tim 5:17-18)

While I believe that New Testament Christians are no longer bound by the Tithe requirements given in Old Testament, Nevertheless there are critical principles we should draw from them!

Principle 1

- God is no man’s debtor
 - God is the creator and “owner” of the entire creation
 - God is good, gracious, merciful and wise
 - See Jesus’s rebuke in Matt 23:23; Luke 18:12

Principle 2

- Christian's scope of giving goes beyond the Sinai Covenant
 - Not limited to agricultural produces
 - Time, income, talents etc... all form the source of our giving

Principle 3

- Christians give because of God's grace
 - Regular setting aside to give (1 Cor 16:1-4)
 - Willing and generous (2 Cor 9:7)
 - It is an opportunity to give more and not less (e.g. poor widow, Zacchaeus)

Principle 4

- Christians affirms the purpose of giving
 - Support of the ministry
 - Opportunity for communal fellowship and celebration
 - To help the poor in our midst (ministry of mercy)

Summary

The earth is the LORD's, and all its fullness,
The world and those who dwell therein.

Psalm 24:1