

Leviticus 27:30-31

³⁰ **'Thus all the tithe of the land, of the seed of the land or of the fruit of the tree, is the LORD's; it is holy to the LORD. ³¹ 'If, therefore, a man wishes to redeem part of his tithe, he shall add to it one-fifth of it.**

One of the most basic commandments for Christians is also for many, one of the most difficult to obey. Tithing is not an option, and the Lord nowhere in His Word says to give whatever you want. Our God explicitly tells His people to give one tenth of all that comes into your hands, to Him! Nowhere does He say that it is negotiable. In fact, here in **Leviticus**, we are told that we are to add an additional twenty percent to any part that we withhold from Him. So if you are stealing from God, He no longer commands that you pay ten percent, but now thirty percent! I know of many believers that have and still struggle with this commandment. For some they are struggling with fear, but most are simply wrestling with the same sin that Judas Iscariot struggled with; they're thieves. Oh sure, they want the goodies and the blessings, they want to hear how to capture the Lord's favor and grace; but they have absolutely no intention paying back what belongs to Him. The holiday season is also one of the most difficult times for many believers to tithe, because they're overwhelmed with purchasing gifts and other extras. They somehow justify that the Lord would understand, or would even want them to do what they want, even if they weren't able to pay their tithe. I want to exhort you to honor God before you honor your kids, spouse, or even yourself! Pay to God what belongs to Him, and then see if you don't have one of the most memorable Holiday Seasons of your life.

Psalms 24:1 says, **"The earth is the LORD's, and all it contains, the world, and those who dwell in it."** God clearly explains to each and every one of us that He is the sole owner of everything on this planet. Our Lord has chosen to bless us, but in return He commands us to pay ten percent back in our recognition that He is the owner, and we are simply stewards. Please understand that the Lord cares very much what you do with the part that he is allowing you to keep. He is not concerned with only the tithe. He wants you to be faithful with all of it; which means that we are not allowed to indulge in sin with the part that is in our care. Some believers tithe, but then they are terrible stewards with the rest. Church, our Lord designed for us to be the lender and not the borrower. But if all you ever do is go in debt, then you'll never walk in the freedom that He designed for you. Each of us will give an account for everything that we do, say, and choose during this life. I assure you that no one in their right mind will be glad that they stole from God when they stand before Him one day. Yet the majority of Christians are going to be facing a sovereign God demanding an account of all that they robbed Him of during this life. Wouldn't you rather repent today, and not face giving an account of why you stole from our Heavenly Father? Don't you understand that when the Lord commanded us not to steal, that your tithe was included in that? You may never have stolen from man or the government; but if you are robbing God of the tithe, then you are a thief. Whether or not you stay a thief is something that you must choose today. The tithe preceded even the Ten Commandments, and it certainly is something that was not eliminated with the life and death of Jesus Christ. Beloved, do the right thing and honor the Living God by paying your tithes at your local church. If you don't have a church, then I exhort you to find one!!