

# **G-TRIPLE-C's THREE Ts**

**(First Things First, Pt2)**

**January 19-20, 2019 ser3802 Sat Sun E & Sun L**

## **I. POINT OF INTRIGUE**

**A. If you can—I'm sure you can—say with me  
G-Triple C's Three Ts. [R]**

**B. I believe I was sixteen, old enough to work  
but not old enough to drive.**

My father was a quiet man, a man of few words. My mother was probably the more vocal of the two, unless you spoke with her on the phone. After a few minutes she would say, "Okay, good-bye," and that was it. Although quiet, my father was a determined man, especially if you angered him.

Other than the "fireplace incident" (LOL!), two specific occasions stand out in my mind. One was when a man hired me to dig a ditch in a trailer park that he owned, worked me 12 hours without a break, lunch or drink. That's all I'll say—I think you get the picture.

The other was the time I got a job at a gas station in a town adjacent to where we lived. I recall it was quite a distance because my parents would drive me to the station and pick me up when I finished my shift.

One week it was cold and rainy. I worked the evening shift and had to close out. Upon receiving my paycheck for the week, it included two days pay minus

x-amount of dollars. Understand I made \$1.25 or \$1.50 an hour, so it wasn't exactly a grandiose paycheck; take out deductions and whatever that extra was and it was pretty pathetic.

Remember, I'm a kid—sixteen years old. It took a lot of courage to ask what the extra withholdings was for. The manager or owner told me I came up short the day it rained; he took it out of my paycheck. My father, the quiet man that he was, had a few words with the station owner. Right or wrong, that was the last day I worked there.

You've got to put this in perspective. In our household the "teacher," the "employer," the "preacher" was always right, so this was huge. I mean huge. (I teared up when writing this.) After that, never did I doubt that my father was the provider, protector and priest of our home.

Mom was the teacher; Dad was the instructor. **(show photo)** They worked as one—Mom teaching and Dad backing up what mom taught. Oh, don't get me wrong, Dad taught, but in a different way.



This gas station incident was one of them.

From the time Sandy and I were little, (show photo—I think we were a little older than that. LOL!) Mom taught and dad instructed us that the *three t's* belonged to God; that they were NOT ours, but God's. We were merely stewards—and that stewardship was a privilege.



At a young age, we learned that our time, talent and treasure belonged to God. My parents didn't have hobbies, per se, although Dad would buy a new car every five years and stereo equipment—I guess they could be considered hobbies. Mom's and Dad's hobby was Church—God first, Church second and Sandy and I were sandwiched in between the two. It truly is a wonderful heritage!

We were taught to tithe, that is give a tenth of our *time*, *talent* and *treasure* to the LORD, and the tithe was just the starting point. Neither Sandy nor I have ever regretted that training. It prioritized our lives for the better.

**C. Today, as we enter into a new year, I'd like to address the "treasure" in the three "Ts."** It's not that this "T" is more valuable than "time" and "talent,"

it's that it seems to, in my observation, dictate, if not at times control, time and talent.

**D. Let's pray!**

## II. WHY TITHE?

**A. Because the tithe is God's.**

**1. The Commissioning – pre law.**

***Genesis 14:18-20 PME: p 14-15 LAB: p26***

Then Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine. He was priest of God Most High,<sup>19</sup> and he blessed Abram, saying,

"Blessed be Abram by God Most High, Creator of heaven and earth.

<sup>20</sup>And blessed be God Most High, who delivered your enemies into your hand."

Then Abram gave him (Melchizedek – Christophany) a tenth of everything. **(show photo)**



**HERE, GOD COMMISSIONS THE TITHE BEFORE THE LAW WAS GIVEN.** It is a covenant between God and the father of all His children. ***(Roman 4:16)*** In

actuality we're going to see it is a covenant of blessing for all who will enter in—believers or nonbelievers. Let's not forget that ALL of mankind is made in the image of God (*Genesis 1:27*).

## 2. The Commanding – during the Law.

### *Leviticus 27:30*

"A tithe of everything from the land, whether grain from the soil or fruit from the trees, belongs to the LORD; it is holy to the LORD.

### *Deut. 14:22-23*

Be sure to set aside a tenth of all that your fields produce each year. <sup>23</sup> ... so that you may learn to revere the LORD your God always. (The tithe is an act of reverence to God.)

## 3. The Commending – at the time of our Lord.

### *Matthew 23:23 PME p 1124; LAB p1582*

"Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You give a tenth of your spices--mint, dill and cumin. But you have neglected the more important matters of the law--justice, mercy and faithfulness. You **should have** practiced the latter (justice, mercy and faithfulness), without neglecting the former (the tithe).

**NOWHERE IN THE NEW TESTAMENT DOES GOD DO AWAY WITH THE TITHE.** To do away with the tithe is to do away with an act of reverence, established before the Law, with all who would be called "children of God."

#### 4. The Continuance – in the Church age (now).

*Hebrews 7:6-8 PME: p1371*

This man (Melchizedek), however, did not trace his descent from Levi, yet he collected a tenth from Abraham and blessed him (Abraham) who had the promises. <sup>7</sup> And without doubt the lesser person (Abraham) is blessed by the greater (Melchizedek). <sup>8</sup> In the one case, the tenth is collected by men who die (ref: priests); but in the other case, by him who is declared to be living (Melchizedek – representation of Christ.).

**WHAT IS THIS PASSAGE SAYING?** As Melchizedek represented the Eternal, so the principle of giving God the tenth is without dispensation.

**THE ARGUMENT** – Many use *2 Corinthians 9* as an argument to say the tithe is not New Testament. Let's look at it!

*2 Cor. 9:6-7 PME p 1318; LAB p1951*

Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. <sup>7</sup> Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

**GOD IS NOT REFERENCING THE TITHE HERE, HE IS REFERENCING "THE GIFT" – THAT WHICH IS GIVEN ABOVE THE TITHE.** This passage (*2 Cor 9*) is directly relational to *2 Corinthians 8* where Paul is

overseeing the collection of a special offering for the Church at Jerusalem. Other than God referencing *the spirit in which we should give*, this passage has nothing to do with the tithe.

**B. (Why tithe?) Because the tithe blesses both the Church and the tither.**

***Malachi 3:7-11 PME p1086; LAB p1516***

Ever since the time of your forefathers you have turned away from my decrees and have not kept them. Return to me, and I will return to you," says the LORD Almighty.

"But you ask, 'How are we to return?'"

<sup>8</sup>"Will a man rob God? Yet you rob me.

"But you ask, 'How do we rob you?'"

"In tithes and offerings. (plural)

**THAT'S A PRETTY STRONG REBUKE FROM A MERCIFUL GOD**—but, in harmony with the heart of God, it is a rebuke because of His desire to bless His children.

<sup>9</sup> You are under a curse--the whole nation of you--because you are robbing me. <sup>10</sup> Bring the **whole tithe** (that's all 10%) into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house.

**UNDERSTAND, GOD DOESN'T NEED YOUR MONEY, EVERYTHING IS HIS ANYWAY; HE OWNS IT ALL.**

Man may profane what God has entrusted to him (money—and certainly we have witnessed this in government—the

Church, family and business), but whatever the case, it's all God's. **However, the Church does—and I'm speaking universally—need your money.** Think it through – this Church has 23 paid employees (full, part time and stipend) and offers immediate care at almost every level, and seeks to do what it does with excellence. There is no way these ministries, and the care of this facility (lawn and cleaning), could operate with excellence without money. As one author put it, there is such a thing as “Kingdom Economics.” Smile!

**ILLUSTRATION**: Even Jesus, who could multiply bread and fish, needed money to live. He lived within the principle of Kingdom Economics.

***Luke 8:1-3 PME p 1175; LAB p1682***

**1** Soon afterward, Jesus traveled from one town and village to another, preaching and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom of God. The Twelve were with Him, **2** as well as some women who had been healed of evil spirits and infirmities: Mary called Magdalene, from whom seven demons had gone out, **3** Joanna the wife of Herod's household manager Chuza, Susanna, and many others. These women were ministering to them out of their own means.

**ILLUSTRATION** – The famous contemporary songwriter, Andre Crouch, was once asked why he required an offering to sing. Wasn't the gospel free? Andre answered, "*The gospel is free, much like your Bible, but someone had to produce the paper, cure the leather and print the page—and that all costs money.*" **(continue with *verse 10.*)**

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 you will not have room enough for it.

**THIS IS THE *ONLY* PLACE IN ALL OF THE BIBLE WHERE GOD SAYS YOU ARE ALLOWED TO PUT HIM TO A TEST.** In fact, He challenges us to tithe. Why? Because He wants to bless us; He wants us to be blessed. ***Proverbs 11:6*** says,

The righteousness (obedience) of the upright (redeemed) will deliver them,  
But the unfaithful will be caught by *their* lust.

**TEST ME!** (Back to *Malachi 3, verses 10 – 11.*)  
Test me in this," says the LORD Almighty, (show photo)

“and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it. <sup>11</sup> I will prevent pests from devouring your crops, and the vines in your fields will not cast their fruit," says the LORD Almighty.

### III. TITHING IS A MATTER OF THE HEART

**A. In actuality "tithing" is a matter of the heart.**

- 1. Do you remember what God said about Abraham? He said, "Abraham's heart was faithful**

to God." Abraham was the first on record to give God the tithe.

**2. Jesus said, in *Luke 12:33-34* PME p1184; LAB p1699**

... Provide purses for yourselves that will not wear out, a treasure in heaven that will not be exhausted, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys.  
 [34] **For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.**

**B. So allow me to ask a *straightforward* question!**

Does where you put your money reflect a heart that seeks God?

**YOU SAY, "PASTOR, THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I'VE EVER HEARD ANYTHING ABOUT THE TITHE!"**

I have not brought this message to place you under condemnation; I've brought this message to introduce you to a *lifestyle* of *blessings* and *eternal rewards*. So, determine today to honor Him with the tithe. And, like millions upon millions of believers who have placed into their lives the joy of giving the tithe, your life will never be the same.

**C. In fact, let's make a deal!** If you'll take the challenge and give God the WHOLE tithe, FAITHFULLY —that's EVERY pay



—it's the FIRST check you write (so to speak—the “first fruits”) for 120 days, if at the end of those 120 days you're not better off than where you are now, the church will return your money *with interest*. I'm serious! It's a deal you can't refuse! **(show photo)**

## IV. INVITATION

**Today we talked about honoring God with the tithe – which is pleasing to the LORD.** However, there is something even more pleasing to God than the tithe, and that is giving Him your life. Have you given God your life? You say, "*Pastor, how?*"

**Admit** – your sins have separated you from God. (*Psa 14:1-3; Rom 3: 23*);

**Believe** – that God did something about your sins through Jesus Christ. (The final Pascal Lamb/Messiah.) (*Lev 17:10; Heb 9: 19-22*);

**Commit** – yourself to His righteous by confessing Jesus as Lord and Savior. (*Isa 53:5; Col 1:22*);

**Do it today!** (*Isa 49:8; 2 Cor 6:2*).

Father in Heaven, I'm sorry for the things I've done that are wrong: I am a sinner; forgive me. Thank You for loving me and sending your Son, Jesus, to pay the penalty for my sin. Holy Spirit, come into my heart; Jesus be my Lord and Savior. I give You my life. Amen!

Ser3802, **G-TRIPLE-C's THREE Ts** (*First Things First, Pt2*) 2202 words with Invitation.