

God Loves A Cheerful Giver Part 4

***“13 Do ye not know that they which minister about holy things live of the things of the temple? and they which wait at the altar are partakers with the altar?”
(1 Corinthians 9:13 KJV)***

We will continue to speak in this message about the privileges the Levites and the priests were given according to the law of God and how we can apply today in the New Testament church. Previously we tackled the following:

1. They were given forty eight cities for living and suburbs around these cities for their cattle and for their beasts and goods to keep:

2. The priests were given the right to receive heave offering or all what the Israelites were raised and offered unto God:

3. The Levites were given to the priests as gifts to assist the priests in doing their offices in the tabernacle instead of the rest of the Israelites, and so the Levites for their maintenance were given the tithes: “21 And, behold, I have given the children of Levi all the tenth in Israel for an inheritance, for their service which they serve, even the service of the tabernacle of the congregation. 22 Neither must the children of Israel henceforth come nigh the tabernacle of the congregation, lest they bear sin, and die. 23 But the Levites shall do the service of the tabernacle of the congregation, and they shall bear their iniquity: it shall be a statute for ever throughout your generations, that among the children of Israel they have no inheritance. 24 But the tithes of the children of Israel, which they offer as an heave offering unto the LORD, I have given to the Levites to inherit: therefore I have said unto them, Among the children of Israel they shall have no inheritance.” (Numbers 18:21-24 KJV) “30 And all the tithe of the land, whether of the seed of the land, or of the fruit of the tree, is the LORD's: it is holy unto the LORD. 31 And if a man will at all redeem ought of his tithes, he shall add thereto the fifth part thereof. 32 And concerning the tithe of the herd, or of the flock, even of whatsoever passeth under the rod, the tenth shall be holy unto the LORD. 33 He shall not search whether it be good or bad, neither shall he change it: and if he change it at all, then both it and the change thereof shall be holy; it shall not be redeemed.” (Leviticus 27:30-33 KJV) Tithes of everything needed to be given to God to be used as maintenance to the Levites, the full time workers in the New Testament church.

“14 Even so hath the Lord ordained that they which preach the gospel should live of the gospel.” (1 Corinthians 9:14 KJV) * In the same way as we explained how God maintained the priests and the Levites in the Old Testament those full time ministers and workers in the New Testament needed to be maintained with a similar to have their accommodation and maintenance for them and their families as we explained in the Scriptures. * Now we cannot say other than what the Scriptures ordained even those of the Old Testament because that what God had put in our hands. Simply we need to apply as we explained in these messages. Now first those false teachers with their superficial view of things they need to go through these Scriptures and accept them and

confessed that they had overlooked that was why they did not teach the people the correct things about giving. Second we cannot develop our own system that is out of the Scriptures otherwise we are liars. Third those who oppose these Scriptures and the way we explain let them give Scriptures that show these Scriptures had been cancelled by God, which they cannot do because God had confirmed them through the writing of Paul to the Corinthians.

From the aforementioned explanation we can conclude that the Israelites, the people of God were asked to give and to contribute the following:

1. Cities to the priests and the Levites to live in and suburbs for their goods and cattle. In the New Testament this would be parable to provide the logistic needs for those who are full time workers and ministers.

2. What was needed to maintain the service in the tabernacle of God for the burnt, meat and drink offerings to maintain the fire on the altar of brass and the work in the holy and the most holy places for each day and in the days of the feasts and for such purpose these include the following: Sheep, goats, oxen, fine flour, wine, oil, salt, wood, spices for the incense and the ointment. In addition to the yearly half shekel of the temple tax per man for the repair and the maintenance of the house of God, ***“11 And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, 12 When thou takest the sum of the children of Israel after their number, then shall they give every man a ransom for his soul unto the LORD, when thou numberest them; that there be no plague among them, when thou numberest them. 13 This they shall give, every one that passeth among them that are numbered, half a shekel after the shekel of the sanctuary: (a shekel is twenty gerahs:) an half shekel shall be the offering of the LORD. 14 Every one that passeth among them that are numbered, from twenty years old and above, shall give an offering unto the LORD. 15 The rich shall not give more, and the poor shall not give less than half a shekel, when they give an offering unto the LORD, to make an atonement for your souls. 16 And thou shalt take the atonement money of the children of Israel, and shalt appoint it for the service of the tabernacle of the congregation; that it may be a memorial unto the children of Israel before the LORD, to make an atonement for your souls.” (Exodus 30:11-16 KJV) “24 And when they were come to Capernaum, they that received tribute money came to Peter, and said, Doth not your master pay tribute? 25 He saith, Yes. And when he was come into the house, Jesus prevented him, saying, What thinkest thou, Simon? of whom do the kings of the earth take custom or tribute? of their own children, or of strangers? 26 Peter saith unto him, Of strangers. Jesus saith unto him, Then are the children free. 27 Notwithstanding, lest we should offend them, go thou to the sea, and cast an hook, and take up the fish that first cometh up; and when thou hast opened his mouth, thou shalt find a piece of money: that take, and give unto them for me and thee.” (Matthew 17:24-27 KJV) In the New Testament these would be parallel to the various sacrifices and offerings to maintain the ministry and the services of God.***

3. Burnt offerings would be burnt on the altar of brass and contribute and to maintain the fire on the altar, and the share of the priest would be the skin of the beast and the remaining of the meat offerings that he would eat with his sons. ***In the New Testament burnt offerings is your body efforts, your material and spiritual contributions, all together to persevere and maintain the ministry and to support the full time ministers.***

4. Sin and trespass offerings for those who sin. The various fats and the kidneys of the sin and the trespass offering would be burnt on the altar of brass which would help and support the fire to continue, and the rest of it, if its blood would not be brought to the most holy place was to be given to the priest and his sons to eat. **In the New Testament these would be parallel to those who sin need to compensate the damages that they did and to contribute materially to support the ministry and those ministers who helped to restore them back to God. Christ died for our sins and we don't need to slaughter animal, but those who sin cause troubles to the minister and the ministry and when they repent they need to compensate the damages, in addition to other damages they did. Many now a day they cause troubles to the ministry and they just walk away. Therefore they need to share material things with the church and the minister who spend his time and efforts to guide them in going back to God**

5. Peace, freewill, thanksgiving offerings for those whom God did miracles, answered prayers and did wonders in their lives. **"17 And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, 18 Speak unto Aaron, and to his sons, and unto all the children of Israel, and say unto them, Whatsoever he be of the house of Israel, or of the strangers in Israel, that will offer his oblation for all his vows, and for all his freewill offerings, which they will offer unto the LORD for a burnt offering; 19 Ye shall offer at your own will a male without blemish, of the beeves, of the sheep, or of the goats."** (Leviticus 22:17-19 KJV) What they would offer some of it would go to be burnt on the altar of brass to keep the fire burning, and the rest to be shared with the priests and the people. The share of the priest would be the shoulder the upper part of the arm that joins to the neck, the breast and the back, the cheek with the tongue and the maw which is the stomach, **"And this shall be the priest's due from the people, from them that offer a sacrifice, whether it be ox or sheep; and they shall give unto the priest the shoulder, and the two cheeks, and the maw."** (Deuteronomy 18:3 KJV) **In the New Testament is to offer as thanksgiving for those whom God did miracles, wonders and answered their prayers and that will go to support the ministry, the minister and the people.**

5. Paying vows, the same guidelines of what was in the Old Testament the same in the New Testament.

6. Dedicating or giving houses, lands, beasts to God, in the New Testament the same in dedicating or giving houses, lands, cars, furniture, etc.

7. Giving the firstfruits for the maintenance of the priests. **In the New Testament giving the firstfruits to the full time ministers.**

8. Giving the tithes for the maintenance of the Levites. **In the New Testament giving the tithes to the full time workers.** **"27 And the Levite that is within thy gates; thou shalt not forsake him; for he hath no part nor inheritance with thee."** (Deuteronomy 14:27 KJV)

9. Alms to the poor, the same for the Old Testament and New Testament. Part of the tithes that collected would be shared to the poor, the orphans and the widows, **"28 At the end of three years thou shalt bring forth all the tithe of thine increase the same**

year, and shalt lay it up within thy gates: 29 And the Levite, (because he hath no part nor inheritance with thee,) and the stranger, and the fatherless, and the widow, which are within thy gates, shall come, and shall eat and be satisfied; that the LORD thy God may bless thee in all the work of thine hand which thou doest." (Deuteronomy 14:28-29 KJV) **Portion of the tithes we collect we keep for those who are in troubles. In addition to any voluntary giving to contribute to the needs of the poor, "1 Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I have given order to the churches of Galatia, even so do ye. 2 Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come. 3 And when I come, whomsoever ye shall approve by your letters, them will I send to bring your liberality unto Jerusalem. 4 And if it be meet that I go also, they shall go with me."** (1 Corinthians 16:1-4 KJV) **"1 Take heed that ye do not your alms before men, to be seen of them: otherwise ye have no reward of your Father which is in heaven. 2 Therefore when thou doest thine alms, do not sound a trumpet before thee, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may have glory of men. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward. 3 But when thou doest alms, let not thy left hand know what thy right hand doeth: 4 That thine alms may be in secret: and thy Father which seeth in secret himself shall reward thee openly."** (Matthew 6:1-4 KJV)

To put all those various giving of tithes, firstfruits, vows, gifts, alms, and various offerings, and the needs of the ministry, and the importance to do all such we can read here, **"8 Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings."** (Malachi 3:8 KJV) **No one is exempted and it can easily be done in the New Testament, just be willing to give and you can meet all these Scriptures by giving cash as we can read here, "1 And he looked up, and saw the rich men casting their gifts into the treasury. 2 And he saw also a certain poor widow casting in thither two mites. 3 And he said, Of a truth I say unto you, that this poor widow hath cast in more than they all: 4 For all these have of their abundance cast in unto the offerings of God: but she of her penury hath cast in all the living that she had."** (Luke 21:1-4 KJV) Even the poor widow brought to the offerings of God. Notice here what Jesus said, the offerings of God and not offering, meaning various offerings and items to be given as cash money as we explained.

Check now yourself and see how much you are doing of all the above and how much you are failing God and start to correct yourself, budget your finances, repent of your sins and direct your resources away from your idols so you will be able to give all what are due for you to give.

If we compare the teaching of giving in the churches now with the Scripture we can see it is so less and far from what we discussed. Why? Lack of knowledge thinking that God had cancelled the Old Testament Scriptures, lack of teachers with sound doctrine to teach, **"6 My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to me: seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, I will also forget thy children."** (Hosea 4:6 KJV) fear of man, they don't teach because they are afraid that the people would go away if they will teach, non willing to deal with sin and traditional practices and the idols that contradict the Scripture that lead the people to waste their resources away from God and that would cause them further troubles and more poverty. People going to other churches should not lead us to compromise to please people. We need to stand firm and He will be the one to deal with them and the churches who compromise with

them and condone their sins. Corruption I can see is the reason why giving in the churches now is so less and far from what we discussed from Scripture, and that corruption in the teaching had brought and perpetuate poverty in the life of the believers.

On the year 2006 God took me from my profession as a doctor and told me very clearly to sit down and teach. Therefore as a servant of God I need to teach the sound teaching not only to please God but to protect the people that God had placed with me and to direct them away from their idols and the idols of this world in order to take them out from poverty and out from troubles.

How we apply this teaching as a church for our disciples and workers?

1. We start teaching them tithing to let the windows of Heaven open on them as God promised, ***“10 Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the LORD of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it.” (Malachi 3:10 KJV)*** and to rebuke the devourer and take it away from their lives, ***“11 And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, and he shall not destroy the fruits of your ground; neither shall your vine cast her fruit before the time in the field, saith the LORD of hosts.” (Malachi 3:11 KJV)*** In fact we teach tithing to combat poverty and to avoid troubles to come into the lives of our disciples. In fact tithe is the minimum that you need to give to God, therefore you need to give the other needed things as God ordained and we explained.
2. After teaching tithing, we teach them to pay their debts.
3. After paying debts or while paying debts we teach them to give offerings and to start to save.
4. While saving and tithing going on, we continue to teach about giving various offerings and the giving of alms.
5. After they got good amount of saving and have stable condition we teach them to give their firstfruits.
6. Usually the needs of the church are met with that level of teaching and we didn't need to go further in applying the other teaching and collect to provide for the living places for our ministers and workers and for the maintenance for the building or for the poor. But if we will need in the future then we will be moving to implement these teaching in the life of the disciples.

Going back to the initial Scripture that we started this series with: ***“6 But this I say, He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully. 7 Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver. 8 And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work:” (2 Corinthians 9:6-8)*** This was in pertain to the effort of Paul to gather alms that he wanted to send to poor saints in Jerusalem, who were the apostles of Jesus, and he was asking them to give alms to the poor and so he told them, ***“God loveth a cheerful giver”***, and that is true to give to the poor as they decided in their hearts to give. Paul was encouraging them to

do that, mentioning to them and challenging them with the good example of the churches of Macedonia who gave to meet the needs of the poor saints as we read here, ***“1 Moreover, brethren, we do you to wit of the grace of God bestowed on the churches of Macedonia; 2 How that in a great trial of affliction the abundance of their joy and their deep poverty abounded unto the riches of their liberality. 3 For to their power, I bear record, yea, and beyond their power they were willing of themselves; 4 Praying us with much intreaty that we would receive the gift, and take upon us the fellowship of the ministering to the saints. 5 And this they did, not as we hoped, but first gave their own selves to the Lord, and unto us by the will of God.” (2 Corinthians 8:1-5 KJV)*** Then he mentioned to them about Titus who started with them such a work to collect for the saints that he will finish it and he encouraged them to finish what they had decided before to give and perfect such a work as we read here adding to them the good example of Jesus that He became poor for the human kind to become rich, ***“6 Insomuch that we desired Titus, that as he had begun, so he would also finish in you the same grace also. 7 Therefore, as ye abound in every thing, in faith, and utterance, and knowledge, and in all diligence, and in your love to us, see that ye abound in this grace also. 8 I speak not by commandment, but by occasion of the forwardness of others, and to prove the sincerity of your love. 9 For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich. 10 And herein I give my advice: for this is expedient for you, who have begun before, not only to do, but also to be forward a year ago. 11 Now therefore perform the doing of it; that as there was a readiness to will, so there may be a performance also out of that which ye have. 12 For if there be first a willing mind, it is accepted according to that a man hath, and not according to that he hath not.” (2 Corinthians 8:6-12 KJV)*** Mentioning to them that he had no intention to squeeze them to relief others but their abundance may now supply their wants and in return when they will have abundance they will supply the wants of the Corinthians that there will be an equality, that no one would be taking advantage of one another, and no one who collected much would have much and no one collected little would have little, ***“13 For I mean not that other men be eased, and ye burdened: 14 But by an equality, that now at this time your abundance may be a supply for their want, that their abundance also may be a supply for your want: that there may be equality: 15 As it is written, He that had gathered much had nothing over; and he that had gathered little had no lack.” (2 Corinthians 8:13-15 KJV)*** Then he again mentioning to them Titus who was going to them to accomplish that task accompanied by another honest brother who was also chosen by the churches to travel even with Paul to administer this ministry to make everything transparent, and they would be ready and prepared to give their gifts and to show their proof of love, and so the boasting of Paul about the Corinthians would not be in vain, especially Paul had previously boasted in front of the churches of Macedonia that Achaia, where the Corinthians located were ready to give and with great zeal to the poor saints a year ago, therefore the more he needed to send ahead of him the brethren to prepare the Corinthians so his boasting would not be in vain, especially when he would arrive with the Macedonians who were accompanying him, then his boasting would not be in vain therefore to be sure of them he sent them the brethren to prepare them so when he would arrive there their gifts would be ready as we read here, ***“16 But thanks be to God, which put the same earnest care into the heart of Titus for you. 17 For indeed he accepted the exhortation; but being more forward, of his own accord he went unto you. 18 And we have sent with him the brother, whose praise is in the gospel throughout all the churches; 19 And not that only, but who was also chosen of the churches to travel with us with this grace, which is administered by us to the***

glory of the same Lord, and declaration of your ready mind: 20 Avoiding this, that no man should blame us in this abundance which is administered by us: 21 Providing for honest things, not only in the sight of the Lord, but also in the sight of men. 22 And we have sent with them our brother, whom we have oftentimes proved diligent in many things, but now much more diligent, upon the great confidence which I have in you. 23 Whether any do enquire of Titus, he is my partner and fellowhelper concerning you: or our brethren be enquired of, they are the messengers of the churches, and the glory of Christ. 24 Wherefore shew ye to them, and before the churches, the proof of your love, and of our boasting on your behalf. 1 For as touching the ministering to the saints, it is superfluous for me to write to you: 2 For I know the forwardness of your mind, for which I boast of you to them of Macedonia, that Achaia was ready a year ago; and your zeal hath provoked very many. 3 Yet have I sent the brethren, lest our boasting of you should be in vain in this behalf; that, as I said, ye may be ready: 4 Lest haply if they of Macedonia come with me, and find you unprepared, we (that we say not, ye) should be ashamed in this same confident boasting. 5 Therefore I thought it necessary to exhort the brethren, that they would go before unto you, and make up beforehand your bounty, whereof ye had notice before, that the same might be ready, as a matter of bounty, and not as of covetousness.” (2 Corinthians 8:16-9:5 KJV) This giving to the poor saints that Paul was asking the Corinthians to give was the same what we read also here, “1 Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I have given order to the churches of Galatia, even so do ye. 2 Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come. 3 And when I come, whomsoever ye shall approve by your letters, them will I send to bring your liberality unto Jerusalem. 4 And if it be meet that I go also, they shall go with me.” (1 Corinthians 16:1-4 KJV) But about the tithes, the fruitfruits and the various offerings to support the person who reached them and taught them the Word of God and to support the ministry are compulsory matter and they needed to be honest to give therefore here Paul brought them to the Law of Moses and taught them and rebuked them with it to teach them to give.

My dear and beloved: We as church we follow the same guidelines that Paul taught, that those whom we reach out, teach and make disciple we ask them to commit themselves to meet the needs of us as their ministers and workers and the needs of the ministry as the following:

1. To give their tithes whatever their financial status and especially if they are poor to quit the sin of rubbing God, “8 Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings. 9 Ye are cursed with a curse: for ye have robbed me, even this whole nation.” (Malachi 3:8-9 KJV)

“10 Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the LORD of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it. 11 And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, and he shall not destroy the fruits of your ground; neither shall your vine cast her fruit before the time in the field, saith the LORD of hosts. 12 And all nations shall call you blessed:

for ye shall be a delightsome land, saith the LORD of hosts.” (Malachi 3:10-12 KJV) Tithing is so important so God would open the windows of Heaven on them, rebuke the devourers in their lives according to His promise, and they will be called blessed.

2. Their various offerings as they wish and led by God to give; burnt offerings, sin and trespass offerings and peace offerings.

3. Teach them to stop their idols, parties for various worldly and traditional practices, mismanagement of finances and take them out from bad stewardship so they can direct their finances to God who will bless them as they obey Him, and to continue to give as He ordained for them.

4. Teach them to save and have good capital.

5. Teach them to give their firstfruits to God.

6. Teach them to give various offerings and properly as God ordained and as we explained in these series.

7. Teach them to give alms to the poor as they decide in their hearts.

Most those whom we reach out are poor and the proof that what we teach in these series are the sound teaching that all those whom we teach they quit their debts start to save and have good capitals. We don't have someone whom we taught and followed this teaching end up in poverty. Let us pray ...

My Prayer: Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus who died on the cross for my sins, who was buried and rose from the dead on the third day to give me eternal life. Lord thank you for your Word and the teaching I received from you about giving what is due to your church, to the full time workers and ministers and to the poor saints. Lord thank you for all the resources that you had placed in my hand to be used for your glory. Lord thank you for the teaching, the corrections, the rebukes and the admonishments we received in this message.

Confess and renounce all your sins. Confess and repent of your greed, selfishness, ungratefulness, worldliness and your love for material things. Confess that you are careless and negligent about the things of God and His church. Repent of your non willingness to commit yourself to do the good works that God had prepared for you to do. Repent of your bad stewardship, wrong spending and lack of saving. Repent of your non willingness to give your tithes, tithe of tithes, various offerings and your firstfruits to God and to do your part and responsibility to the church. Repent of spending your tithes, firstfruits and offerings on your idols. Repent of buying houses and lands and putting yourself in debts. Repent of your lack of prayer and reading the Word of God. Repent of your bondage with the Media, News, games, and friends. Lord forgive me I repent of the following sins _____.

Lord thank you for your Word that you sent me, Lord I am willing to correct and amend my ways. I am willing to give up the following idols _____, and willing to live in the style of life that you want me to live in, to discipline myself, to be good steward to my resources, willing to give what is due to you from tithes, offerings and firstfruits, and willing to support your works and the ministries and the workers of the church that you placed me in.

Lord, thank you for my Brothers and Sisters who repented and had committed their lives to serve you and to apply your Word in this message. Lord protect them and continue to provide for them, and guide them to be good steward of your resources to give what is due for you and

to your church. Lord multiply their resources and prosper them that their lives will be good testimonies to others to follow you.

Lord bless us as your church and help us to implement your Word and your will in the life of each member, family, worker and minister of the church. Lord sustain us, continue to provide for us and give us wisdom to use the resources according to your will and the needs of the church and the full time workers, ministers and the ministries. Lord lead us to poor widows, orphans and families who are willing to follow your Word and your will that we may help them. Lord we pray for more people to get filled with the Holy Spirit to go and evangelize, making new disciples and train new workers to go and plant more Bible studies and congregations for the church. Lord I pray for more people to get water baptized and receive the Holy Spirit baptism. Lord fulfill the vision of the church, 'Multiplication in peace with implementing the whole will of God.' Lord prepare us for your coming that when you come we are ready to go with you. Lord bless us enlarge our territory let your hand be with us and free us from harm so that we will not feel pain. May the grace of the Lord Jesus, and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all in Jesus name, Amen.

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