**Tithes and Offerings**

**Proverbs 3:7-10**

Introduction:

* Passing an offering plate, or trying to receive money from people in any way is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
* There are many religious organizations that take advantage of people and pressure them for more money—we don’t want to be like that!
* It is hard enough for people to balance their personal finances in order to pay all their bills, taxes, etc. (Although, we probably all can admit that there is a lot of unnecessary expenses in our budget).
* So, you can imagine why preaching on “tithes and offerings” has become unpopular, although still a hobby horse of many Baptist churches today.

I. The \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 A. The \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ for giving to the Lord is to demonstrate our \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ for Him.

 1. We are to love the Lord in every facet of our lives, and this includes our \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

 a. All our heart, soul, and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (**Deuteronomy 6:5**)

 b. All our heart, soul, and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (**Matthew 22:37**)

 c. All our heart, soul, mind, and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_(**Mark 12:30**).

 2. Demonstrating our love always involves some sort of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (**Genesis 4:3-4, 9:20-21, Exodus 20:24**).

 B. A second obvious purpose for giving to the Lord is so that, with the money given, the Lord’s work can be accomplished.

 1. Of course, He doesn’t need our money and could accomplish His work in other ways.

 2. However, from our perspective, this is our means (“\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_”) by which we can effectively accomplish the work. (**Exodus 35:5, 20-21, 36:1-7**)

II. The \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 A. The principle of the “firstfruits.” (**Exodus 22:29**)

 1. “Do not delay”

 2. “Of all your increase” (**Proverbs 3:9**)

 B. The principle of the tithe (**Numbers 18:23-24**)

III. The \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 A. Before the law

 1. Abel offered the “\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_” (**Genesis 4:4**)

 2. Abraham gives tithes to Melchizedek (**Genesis 14:18-20**)

 3. Jacob vows to give God a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_of all that God gives him (**Genesis 28:22**)

 B. The law

 1. **Numbers 18:23-28**

 2. **Leviticus 27:30**

 3. **Deuteronomy 12:10-19, 14:22-29**

 C. After Babylonian captivity

 1. **Malachi 3:8-3:10**

 2. **Nehemiah 10:24-27**

 D. New Testament

 1. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ approves of it (**Matthew 23:23**)

 2. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_suggests it (**1 Corinthians 9:13-15**)