

TITHING (D 55)

Tithing is a basic Biblical principle which speaks to a person's relationship with his Creator. This relationship is ordained of God for the benefit of His children. Systematic and regular tithing yields rich rewards. Among these is the bond which results between a person and his Creator. Another is experiencing the intrinsic satisfaction of giving one's self and one's means to the Lord. Our Lord's promise of special blessings to the faithful tither can be received in no other way.

Seventh-day Adventist denominational employees are to be models in every facet of their lives. Church members should see in church employees a fidelity to basic principles which is unequivocal. Such employees will demonstrate an exemplary commitment to the Lord and the teaching of His Church.

Because of its importance as a principle and the spiritual experience it represents, tithing, like other basic beliefs and practices of the Church, becomes a condition of employment for all credentialed/licensed employees. Consequently, at the time of employment each individual shall be informed in writing of this requirement which includes the expectation of faithfulness in tithing. Employees shall also be informed that their tithing practices are subject to annual review.

If it is determined that an employee is not faithfully tithing, the president of the employing organization shall discuss the matter with the employee in the spirit of pastoral concern and endeavor to help him understand that he is being deprived of a blessing and is following a course that is harmful to this relationship with his Creator.

All denominationally employed Seventh-day Adventists who have been issued a credential/license, members of union and local conference committees and institutional boards, church elders and other church officers are to recognize it as a principle of leadership in God's work that a good example be set in the matter of tithing. A person who does not live up to this standard disqualifies himself from being continued as a church officer, denominational employee or committee member.

God's plan for the support of His work on this earth is through the tithe and freewill offerings of His people. The tithe is the main source of funding for the total proclamation of the gospel to all the world by the Seventh-day Adventist Church. This includes a balanced and comprehensive evangelistic outreach to the public and the spiritual nurturing of church members. Because the tithe is reserved for a special purpose, freewill offerings must provide the funding for many functions of the gospel work.

Through benevolence and liberality the Lord sought to teach His people that in everything He must be first. Building on this in his first letter to the church at Corinth, Paul gave the believers instruction regarding the general principles underlying the support of God's work on earth (I Cor. 9:7-14; CS 65-79; AA 335-337). Ellen G. White confirmed that the tithing plan is of divine origin, is for all time, and is anchored in the Biblical plan of tithes and offerings.

TITHING, Cont'd

The world task entrusted to the Advent Movement calls for both sacrificial and systematic financial support. In recognition of this fact, the Church in its formative years was divinely led to adopt the Biblical plan of tithing as the financial basis of its outreach "to every nation, kindred, tongue and people."

Only conference organizations are authorized to make allocations from tithe funds. The tithe is the Lord's and should be returned to the storehouse, the conference treasury. "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" (Mal 3:10). "The tithe is sacred, reserved by God for Himself. It is to be brought into His treasury to be used to sustain the gospel laborers in their work" (GW 226).