



The Practice of Tithing

A method of giving commonly practiced among Christians is tithing (giving 10% of one's income for the support of God's work). Tithing was clearly taught and practiced in the Old Testament both before and after the law was given (e.g., see Gen. 28:322; Lev. 27:30; Mal. 3:8-10). The New Testament, however, neither mandates nor opposes tithing, leading some to question whether or not tithing should be encouraged in the church. We strongly endorse the practice of tithing because it is an excellent starting point for fulfilling the following principles of Biblical stewardship:

1. *Give because you realized who owns your resources.* All of earth's resources belong to God (Ps. 24:1) including our money and financial resources (Matt. 25:14; Hag. 2:8).
2. *Give because you understand the value of eternal things.* In giving to God's work here at MVCC, we are investing in which will produce an eternal harvest (see Matt. 6:19-20; 2 Cor. 9:10-11).
3. *Give as an act of worship.* Jesus said that giving is a clear indication of our values and priorities (Matt. 6:21). Therefore, we express our love and reverence for God by the way we support His work.
4. *Give sacrificially.* Sacrificial giving is both encouraged and modeled throughout the Scriptures. Abel gave "fat portions" from the firstborn of his flock as his offering to God (Gen. 4:4). Jesus applauded the sacrificial giving of a widow (Mk. 12:41-44). The Apostle Paul also encouraged generosity in giving (see 2 Cor. 9:6). Indeed, liberal giving was a hallmark of the early church (see Acts 2:44-45).
5. *Give according to personal ability.* We don't all have the same income or financial resources. However, tithing is an excellent method of giving "in proportion to the way the Lord your God has blessed you" (Deut. 16:17).
6. *Give cheerfully.* The Bible says that we are not to give "reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver" (2 Cor. 9:7). Therefore, at MVCC offering are taken without coercion or manipulation.
7. *Give knowing that God will bless you richly in return.* While we don't give in order to receive, God's blessings are promised to those who generously and cheerfully worship Him through giving (Lk. 6:38; 2 Cor. 9:8, 11).

We encourage every member and regular attendee of MVCC to tithe, not out of a sense of legalistic obligation, but in response to these principles. Indeed, the present and future needs of this ministry will easily be met as each member faithfully gives a tithe of his/her income in support of the wonderful work God is doing here at MVCC.