"Tithing in the New Covenant" -The Covenant of Salt-

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"Tithing in the New Covenant" -The Covenant of Salt-©

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Opening Prayer

I Lord I pray, you use this work to show the people that You are the Unchanging God. Your word declares it, that what You were yesterday, You are today, and will be tomorrow!

Hebrews 13:8

Lord, I also pray a special prayer that You will assign an Angel with each book and that Your Holy Spirit will enlighten those that are seeking a closer walk and a deeper understanding of the truths embedded in Your word. A-men

Acknowledgement and Dedication

I want to give a shout out to my great friend **Mark Crouch** for believing in the call of God upon my life. Brother Mark is the station manager with The Trinity Broadcasting Network in Greenwood, and Richmond, Indiana. Brother Mark is also a wonderful speaker, poet and author on Amazon. He also has the Hands Extended Food Pantry there at the TBN studios.

I want to recognize my **Apostles Don** and **Brendon Stewart** also **Pastor Ping Alba** with Miracle Life Fellowship International and all connected with Don Stewart Ministries.

I want to recognize **Chief Apostle David A.A. Mungo** for giving me a word many years ago that helped steer me where I am at today.

I want to recognize my Brother in law **Phil Hicks** and my big Executive Sister with 3E Company's worldwide **Betty Hicks**.

I would like to recognize a special lady in the Philippines **Minister Augustina Chua Mergullas**. Sister Augustina is a Minister in training with Agape Global missions. Minister Augustina C. Mergullas we love to call TinTin is the co-founder and President of Withered Hand Ministries International based in the Philippines. www.witheredhandministriesinternational.com

I want to recognize my longtime friend **Minister Glen Moody**. Glen founded the Moody book Store now named I Love Books Bookstore located in the Fort Henry Mall in Kingsport, Tennessee.

Preface

This book came about as the Lord began to touch my heart about the condition of the church and how it is portraying itself to a lost and hurting world. These are very crucial days and we need the wisdom of God applied to our lives that we may live a good and prosperous life while here on this Earth. My prayer is that you carefully read this book with an open mind and allow God to meet you where you are especially in your giving. Dear reader, you will discover in these pages are some valuable insights to help you prosper and fulfill the call that is upon your life and ministry. We will study the prosperity gospel and how it has been abused as others made it into a business. We will do an in-depth study on tithing and hopefully realize it can be a blessing to those who honor and celebrate it as being in business with God.

Chapter 1 The Prosperity Gospel

When we study the word of God and bible history, we discover that Mal. III was written to the leadership of the church and not the members. Now let me step up and say that I believe in sowing a seed into the Kingdom of God as an act of faith and I do believe God will honor our seed if it is given with love and with the right motive. Dear reader, remember that God took an oath and is bound by His word. Later in this study we will study the Act of Tithing which some today are teaching is bondage and not in the required New Testament Church because under the law Christ fulfilled the law. My question to this teaching is how come it is the to in Old**Testament** Covenant of Salt which is an Everlasting Covenant with between God and His people?

This should get you thinking but for now let's cover some of the ways ministers are misappropriating God's covenant with the intent of funding their own ministries today.

I do not want to misrepresent this nor do I want to point fingers for there are some great men and women of God who have donated houses, expensive cars etc. to those in need.

Before they were blessed with larger ministries these people were "givers" and God put His hand on them and blessed their giving. Prosperity does work however there have been some that have used their pulpits to fleece the people of God because they know people are hurting and looking for a way out of their debt which makes it difficult for the true men and women of God to preach on the subject of tithing.

There are some preachers today that use what we call the prosperity gospel as a monetary gain for their rich lifestyle that has done more to hurt the church than help it especially in these trying times. They use their pulpits to make selfish demands to hurting people and leave out the right of the widows and the poor spoken of by Moses, while they bring in most of their money to the sum of millions a year and mostly get it from the weak. There is a trend passing through our land today that disturbs my spirit and makes me wonder about their motives?

They are on TV every day preaching that one needs to sow a seed into the Kingdom of God as a seed offering for God to do something needful in someone's life. They ask the people to send them their debts and they are going to have a special event where they will burn these bills as if they are burning the devils of poverty which caused the debts. I will tell you from experience that we bring a lot of these hardships ourselves by not consulting God's word in the situation before we make our decision to do something that will affect our finances. We find that God instructs us in His word to not be a surety for someone else's debts. I have been guilty of this more times than I care to remember and it has always left me holding the bag. My Daddy always told me that if you want to make a friend your enemy just loan them some money. Is this sinking in?

Can anybody identify with me?

We know better than using our credit cards as a means of maintaining our life style. The card companies are making a fortune by enticing us to make purchases that we do not need. The loan institutions know that we are living in a fast paced world where there are luxuries on every corner. We are enticed into buying an automobile on our good credit and giving us several years to pay for it. If we go more than four years on the loan then we are shocked to find that when it is paid off that we have invested into it far more than it is worth. We are the ones not using good judgment in our finances but we just got to blame it on the devil and send a list of our debts to these TV evangelists who are going to have a special event on live TV and let us watch them pray over these debts and burn them in a bonfire which is supposed to burn the devil of debt or poverty which has these poor people enslaved. I believe we can pray over these requests and sometimes get results but again are the people we are praying for being good stewards with their money so that being said there are hidden habits and motives that must be reckoned with before these people get out of what they got themselves into. I have watched some of these famous ministers expand as God would add to them and they did not have to fleece the people of God to do it. I am sure that these ministers believe that they are acting on God's promises but my question is this. Are they portraying an atmosphere of false hope to these poor people

who swallow their propaganda and send them their debts believing that God is going to get them out of the situation that they got themselves into by not consulting God's instruction manual the Holy Bible? These ministers have convinced the people that they have rebuked and burned the spirits of poverty off their lives, however, this is not going to stop the harassing phone calls from the creditors who want their money with interest.

I have one question for these mighty men of God who are making themselves rich by robbing the poor?

My question is who then has robbed even the whole nation of God's intent of tithes and offerings? A Hint is in Malachi 3:5. & Isaiah 61:8 & Malachi 3:5. "And I will come near to you to judgment; and I will be a swift witness against the sorcerers, and against the adulterers, and against false swearers and against those that oppress the hireling in his wages, the widow, and the fatherless, and that turn aside the stranger from his right, and fear not me, saith the Lord of hosts."

Isaiah 61:8 "For I the LORD love judgment, I hate robbery for burnt offering; and I will direct their work in truth, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them."

Does not the Word of the Lord say that my sheep hear my voice? In the verses above we find that God hates robbery for burnt offerings. If we are compelled in a special service to give into a ministry and compelled to do it with God's portion then my question would be who is speaking to us? Here we are in a special service and up to our neck in bills, we do not have money to put gas in our car and we pledge to give these ministers an offering that amounts to over a week's work thus placing ourselves and our family in bondage and we have the mindset that God is going to bless and deliver us, however in the back of our mind we thinking, what have I done and what if God does not come through on this pledge. Come on now, "don't get to save on me" because you know I am right. First let me say that God does emphasize in His word that whatever we give to His work shall return unto us but does it say that it is promised to us when we need it? This is where the ministers are failing in that they are making false promises to the people and creating an atmosphere that God is going to bring their children out of drugs or some other miracle and fail to realize that God has a plan. Yes, the fruit of the seed will come back to us if we give with a pure heart and motive to advance his Kingdom but it does not say it will come back to us personally.

God may decide to have the blessing come back to our children or our children's children.

This is the **Prosperity Doctrine** being preached in our pulpits today and there is a record being kept on high.

The word of God declares that Almighty God hates robbery for burnt offerings then if you are compelled to give into a ministry and you are then compelled to do it with God's portion, the tithe for it is Holy and it is the Lord's!

The Word of God declares that we are to take this to our Local assembly to Celebrate God's goodness to us so that the ministry and the meek of our community will have food to eat, clothes to wear, and places to live.

The tithe of the tithe is where we discover the heave offering referred to as a *Covenant of Salt*. Read Carefully!

Numbers 18:8-19 (KJV)

- ⁸ And the LORD spoke unto Aaron, Behold, I also have given thee the charge of mine heave offerings of all the hallowed things of the children of Israel; unto thee have I given them by reason of the anointing, and to thy sons, by an ordinance forever.
- ⁹ This shall be thine of the most holy things, reserved from the fire: every oblation of their's, every meat offering of their's, and every sin offering of their's, and every trespass offering of their's which they shall render unto me, shall be most holy for thee and for thy sons.
- ¹⁰ In the most holy place shalt thou eat it; every male shall eat it: it shall be holy unto thee.
- ¹¹ And this is thine; the heave offering of their gift, with all the wave offerings of the children of Israel: I have given them unto thee, and to thy sons and to thy daughters with thee, by a statute forever: every one that is clean in thy house shall eat of it.
- ¹² All the best of the oil, and all the best of the wine, and of the wheat, the first fruits of them which they shall offer unto the LORD, them have I given Thee.

- ¹³ And whatsoever is first ripe in the land, which they shall bring unto the LORD, shall be thine; every one that is clean in thine house shall eat of it.
- ¹⁴ Everything devoted in Israel shall be thine.
- 15 Everything that openeth the matrix in all flesh, which they bring unto the LORD, whether it be of men or beasts, shall be thine: nevertheless the firstborn of man shalt thou surely redeem, and the firstling of unclean beasts shalt thou redeem.
- ¹⁶ And those that are to be redeemed from a month old shalt thou redeem, according to thine estimation, for the money of five shekels, after the shekel of the sanctuary, which is twenty gerahs.
- ¹⁷ But the firstling of a cow, or the firstling of a sheep, or the firstling of a goat, thou shalt not redeem; they are holy: thou shalt sprinkle their blood upon the altar, and shalt burn their fat for an offering made by fire, for a sweet savour unto the LORD.
- ¹⁸ And the flesh of them shall be thine, as the wave breast and as the right shoulder are thine.

19 All the heave offerings of the Holy things, which the children of Israel offer unto the LORD, have I given thee, and thy sons and thy daughters with Thee, by a statute forever: it is a covenant of salt forever before the LORD unto thee and to thy seed with thee.

This offering belongs directly to the minister who is to oversee the ministry to the poor and upkeep our Father's house including taking care of the retired ministers that sacrificed their life for the ministry. Even today the Apostle Paul shows that it is the duty of Churches to maintain their ministers and they that do not work should not eat.

Let us now look at our giving and how we should give. Only a small portion of ones tithe should be given into other ministries however it is scriptural to give a love offering if we feel led to do so. I mean if God really told you to give to another ministry and you are behind on your bills then it would have to come out of the tithe because God says he hates "robbery for burnt offering"! It is like this: **The tithe is the Lord's!** He does not want you to rob Him by paying your bills with it! In the Old Covenant the Lord says if you were to borrow it then you were to pay it

back with twenty percent interest. (Not to many ministers would tell you that).

God knows our heart and He understands our giving. Did He not say that He that considereth the poor and giveth unto them lendeth unto the Lord. (*Proverbs 19:17*).

God also does not want you to rob other people or businesses you have an agreement with to give God an offering. God is just; and with justice comes righteous judgment!

God loves judgment! And with right judgment comes great wealth.

I need to jump in here and say that there may be a time arise that the Lord may have you make a pledge to give to His work and you do not have the funds he told you to pledge but you step out on an act of faith and make the pledge informing the people over the cause that you do not have the funds at this time but you are stepping out on your faith and believing God that the funds will be there when it is time for the pledge to be collected. I have witnessed God come through many times on this Act of Faith.

The Word declares this statement in this passage and in others to such as "Who Is Robbing God?"

Do you not see in today's body of Christ that we have been devastated as a whole? Sure there is great wealth in the body usually by those who have the use of judgment. Let's face it there are many voices, and the only one that can bring judgment to these voices is you. The enemy of our soul comes as a thief as stated below. John 10:10 "The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly." What do you think he (Satan) wants to steal most if your soul is in the hands of Christ?

Chapter 2 Are Some Preachers Greedy?

I remember one incident concerning a Bishop that was founder of a certain ministry. He related that a close friend who could preach heaven down in a service approached him about undertaking the job of building a privacy fence for him. This minister was coming up for ordination in the ministry the Bishop had founded.

The Bishop discussed the job with him but informed him that he did not care to have him perform the task because he was such a close friend.

The minister insisted that he would do the work to the Bishop's satisfaction and persisted in getting started as soon as possible.

The friend was well skilled in the job task but the Bishop continued to put him off. After several days of pestering him about the job, the Bishop regretfully allowed the minister to do the work except there would be one requirement that he would not budge on. He informed the minister that he did not care when he would begin work on the fence except that he would not tolerate him leaving the job unfinished to begin or finish work started somewhere else.

The minister agreed to this rule and was paid the full amount to do the fence up front which was almost two thousand dollars. About a week went by and the minister showed up with the material to build the fence. When he had the fence near completion, the Bishop noticed that he had not showed up for several days.

The Bishop had some people contact him as to the reason he had not shown up to complete the privacy fence.

The Bishop was told that he had received job offers and signed contracts to do other work. This angered the man of God and he inquired where the minister's next speaking engagement was and politely drove to hear him speak.

The Bishop was to be one of the ministers that would be signing his ordination certificate.

After the service, the two had a little discussion about why he pulled away from the job to start work on other projects. Needless to

say, the minister was like David when confronted by the prophet Nathan concerning his sin with Bathsheba.

The man apologized and began to weep as he realized the promise he had made.

The Bishop politely forgave him and yes, they had a nice ordination ceremony for the minister in one of their Churches.

The man had been paid up front and did not have to wait on his money which caused him to get greedy when the other job offers started coming in.

I said all of that to make the point that we are all human and make mistakes however our word should be our bond especially in a hurting world looking for answers.

Are you making a difference and do you believe in the cause? I myself strive to be a man of my word even if it may cost me some money to do it. It gives me peace of mind and heart that I know that I have did the right thing.

Chapter 3 The Widows and Strangers

Are you making a difference in the culture around you and do you believe in the cause? This chapter is going to look at what some overlook today and that is the way God views the poor including the Widows and the Strangers. We will discover in our studies of scripture that there is a "right" for the laborer or hireling [not the unfaithful Minster and their wages which extends to the needy [the fatherless, the widow, and the stranger to upkeep the ministry. We are going to place a lot of scripture in this chapter and in the next chapter we are going to look at the true intent of the Lord's Supper and the love feasts which we refer to as Holy Communion. We will also discover why the Lord through the Apostle Paul stated that some would receive judgment including death because of the way they treat others. We know that after crossing into the new Promised Land the people were instructed to leave the ends and sides fields for the poor to come and glean for the land in the Lord's. Join with me as we discover how God views the less fortunate.

Leviticus 23:22 (KJV)

²² And when Ye reap the harvest of your land, Thou shalt not make clean riddance of the corners of thy field when thou reapest, neither shalt thou gather any gleaning of thy harvest: thou shalt leave them unto the poor, and to the stranger: I am the LORD your God.

Exodus 22:22-24 (KJV)

²² Ye shall not afflict any widow, or fatherless child. ²³ If thou afflict them in any wise, and they cry at all unto me, I will surely hear their cry; ²⁴ And my wrath shall wax hot, and I will kill you with the sword; and your wives shall be widows, and your children fatherless.

Deuteronomy 27:19 (KJV)

¹⁹ Cursed be he that perverteth the judgment of the stranger, fatherless, and widow. And all the people shall say, Amen.

Deuteronomy 10:18 (KJV)

¹⁸ He doth execute the judgment of the fatherless and widow, and loveth the stranger, in giving him food and raiment.

I GOT SOME MORE!

Deuteronomy 15:11 (KJV)

¹¹ For the poor shall never cease out of the land: therefore I command thee, saying, Thou shalt open thine hand wide unto thy brother, to thy poor, and to thy needy, in thy land.

Proverbs 15:25 (KJV)

²⁵ The LORD will destroy the house of the proud: but he will establish the border of the widow.

Psalm 146:9 (KJV)

⁹ The LORD preserveth the strangers; he relieveth the fatherless and widow: but the way of the wicked he turneth upside down.

Dear reader, we have helped make some preachers very rich in today's church and missed the Lord's intent concerning the culture around us. We are supposed to be the Lord's body here on earth and willingly yield our bodies a living sacrifice which is our reasonable service. God desires to use our hands and feet to reach out to the needy.

Saints, we are to reach out the culture around us with the good news that we serve a Risen Savior. Remember we are to be the influence, not allow the world to influence us. God wants us to prosper and flow in the body as children of faith and power. God desires that we live circumspectly in this cruel world making the most out of every opportunity.

When we miss an opportunity, it cannot be reclaimed.

Every moment is a precious gift from God. God wants us to manage our time and invest it in something worthwhile. Saints, did you know that there is strength in working together?

In Ephesians 5th chapter, Paul speaks of redeeming our time and managing it and our self wisely.

Too many have the mistaken idea that the building is the church. God's son Jesus is not coming back for buildings but a bride that hath made herself ready. We are not here to fill up space, nor are we here to build our own kingdom.

We are here to be a light to bring hope, meaning and purpose in a life that is searching for the truth and be released from the enemies hold on their life.

Let us labor together for the common cause and Let it be the real thing.

Chapter 4

Understanding the Lord's Supper

I begin this chapter with both a feeling of excitement and one of sorrow because of the way this wonderful experience has been portrayed to the body of Christ. To do this study justice we need to reflect back to the message Paul is bringing in the 11th Chapter of 1st Corinthians verses 17-34.KJV

- ¹⁷ Now in this that I declare unto you I praise you not, that ye come together not for the better, but for the worse.
- ¹⁸ For first of all, when ye come together in the church, I hear that there be divisions among you; and I partly believe it.
- ¹⁹ For there must be also heresies among you, that they which are approved may be made manifest among you.
- ²⁰ When ye come together therefore into one place, this is not to eat the Lord's supper.
- ²¹ For in eating every one taketh before other his own supper: and one is hungry, and another is drunken.

- ²² What? have ye not houses to eat and to drink in? or despise ye the church of God, and shame them that have not? what shall I say to you? shall I praise you in this? I praise you not.
- ²³ For I have received of the Lord that which also I delivered unto you, that the Lord Jesus the same night in which he was betrayed took bread:
- ²⁴ And when he had given thanks, he brake it, and said, Take, eat: this is my body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me.
- ²⁵ After the same manner also he took the cup, when he had supped, saying, this cup is the new testament in my blood: this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me.
- ²⁶ For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death till he come.
- ²⁷ Wherefore whosoever shall eat this bread, and drink this cup of the Lord, unworthily, shall be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord.
- ²⁸ But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of that bread, and drink of that cup.

- ²⁹ For he that eateth and drinketh unworthily, eateth and drinketh damnation to himself, not discerning the Lord's body.
- ³⁰ For this cause many are weak and sickly among you, and many sleep.
- ³¹ For if we would judge ourselves, we should not be judged.
- ³² But when we are judged, we are chastened of the Lord, that we should not be condemned with the world.
- ³³ Wherefore, my brethren, when ye come together to eat, tarry one for another.
- 34 And if any man hunger, let him eat at home; that ye come not together unto condemnation. And the rest will I set in order when I come.

The people of Corinth were caught up in their carnal ways and had problems dealing with moral issues. Paul in this 1st chapter is attempting to address the need for unity among the brethren and impart to this church the importance of keeping the Lord's Supper.

I have been witness to some Pastors attempting to invoke fear into their congregation by stressing the need for anyone partaking in this service to examine themselves and not take this sacred service unworthy because they could suffer some evil such as sickness or death predestined to come upon one who ignores this warning.

Friends, readers, and fellow servants of the Lord, this is not kind of atmosphere or picture the living God desires to be presented to His people.

Dear reader, we are members of His royal family and do not need to run from this sacred service with the impression of some powerful being sitting in heaven ready to throw us in hell every time we mess up.

Please take time and go with me and read the **18**th verse through the **22nd** verse and get some valuable insight.

KJV 18 For first of all, when ye come together in the church, I hear that there be divisions among you; and I partly believe it.

¹⁹ For there must be also heresies among you, that they which are approved may be made manifest among you.

- ²⁰ When ye come together therefore into one place, this is not to eat the Lord's supper.
- ²¹ For in eating every one taketh before other his own supper: and one is hungry, and another is drunken.
- ²² What? have ye not houses to eat and to drink in? or despise ye the church of God, and shame them that have not? what shall I say to you? shall I praise you in this? I praise you not.

To get a deeper meaning of what we are looking for let us go to the book of Jude and read verses 8-13 which I have took the liberty to include in this hub that you may glean from the word of God.

- **KJV 8** Likewise also these filthy dreamers defile the flesh, despise dominion, and speak evil of dignities.
- ⁹ Yet Michael the archangel, when contending with the devil he disputed about the body of Moses, durst not bring against him a railing accusation, but said, The Lord rebuke thee.
- ¹⁰ But these speak evil of those things which they know not: but what they know naturally, as

brute beasts, in those things they corrupt themselves.

¹¹ Woe unto them! for they have gone in the way of Cain, and ran greedily after the error of Balaam for reward, and perished in the gainsaying of Core.

12 These are spots in your feasts of charity, when they feast with you, feeding themselves without fear: clouds they are without water, carried about of winds; trees whose fruit withereth, without fruit, twice dead, plucked up by the roots;

¹³ Raging waves of the sea, foaming out their own shame; wandering stars, to whom is reserved the blackness of darkness forever.

Is It Wrong to have Food in Church?

I now present to you the true meaning of what is going on in this church that is upsetting to the Lord.

The early Christians held a love feast in connection with the Lord's Supper during which they gathered for a fellowship meal. They worked together with other churches in the area and collected money for the orphans and widows.

The disgusting part is that the wealthier members greedily consumed the food before the poor and deserving people for which the feats were being sponsored for could show up.

Paul was stating in verses 21 and 22 that if the people were not going to honor the purpose of the love feast, it would be better for them to eat and drink at home.

I do not intend to meddle but some have taken it upon themselves to use these scriptures and some in the Old Testament to keep food and drink out of their sanctuary when in actuality, the Old Testament church would celebrate their tithe by eating a portion of it in church.

The First Church brought food such as grain and crops they had raised as a first fruit offering to the priests which would be stored in a store house built on the church.

I regretfully make the statement that some Pastors will not allow singing groups to display their items and music Cd's in the church foyer or the church entrance.

I might say these men are using what they think are scriptural references such as the one mentioned in Corinthians the eleventh chapter verse twenty two as leverage against the people of God.

They are attempting to use these scriptures as a command for the purpose of keeping sin out of their church when if the truth is known, there are more things hidden in their life and the way they have treated fellow ministers than the sin they are trying to keep out of their church. Oh' Help Me Spirit of God not to meddle".

I got to get back to the Lord's Supper and forgive me for telling the truth.

Dear reader, Jude speaks of the love feasts and exposes the pride, greed, rebellion and iniquities of ungodly men who corrupted these feasts.

These teachers were selfish and had no water to offer thirsty souls.

These men were unstable, fruitless, had no spiritual roots, and were likened to shooting stars that appeared for a limited time and vanish without a trace.

Is this study going anywhere or do I need to really get deep because we are living in the closing days of the day of Grace and we as the church had better realize the time and get our walk right.

The picture is not right when we see a divided church in the same building with two different pastors and no love for Jesus expressed in their services.

Can I Lose My Healing?

Today, more people seem to be leaving church more entertained than elevated and this is not right.

Can we be right and say that Hollywood has come to church?

The sin that brings judgment is clearly revealed in verse twenty nine as that of not rightly discerning the Lord's body.

The question to those partaking of this Holy Supper would be "How have you treated other members of the body of Christ"?

How have you treated members from other churches and organizations?

Let me quick to point out a simple truth and that is that the church is not an organization but a living organism.

We may go to our separate churches but we never disconnect from the body because we read in **Ephesians 1**st **Chapter and verse 22** "He hath put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to the church, 23 Which is His body, the fullness of Him that filleth all in all."

The Lord paid a high price for our salvation and it is time we honor His great sacrifice in the celebrating and partaking of His Holy Sacrament Service with reverence and Godly fear.

You might ask, what is so special about this service that most people are afraid to participate in and why should I partake of it?

What Is So Special About This Sacred Service?

This blessed service causes us to enter in to appreciation with the "One" who died for us and is with us now through His spirit that lives within and in the officiating of this service, we look back on His great sacrifice on our behalf.

We enter in remembering his great sacrifice of becoming our sin substitute and dying in our place.

- 1. We remember and celebrate how He gave Himself unselfishly and completely to satisfy the wrath of God against sin and allows the scriptures to be fulfilled as they cry out "He that knew no sin was made sin for us" and "While we were yet sinners, Christ died for us"
- 2. We look within ourselves and ask the question "Are we striving for holiness and are we totally committed in our Christian walk"?
- 3. Do we recognize our brothers and sisters in the Lord and have fellowship with them"?

Dear reader, the important part of this service is asking our self this question?

Are we eagerly looking forward to his coming with joy or are we looking in fear?

We should be looking with joy filling our hearts as we long for the day when we will be seated at the welcome table which will stretch

for miles and watch as Our Lord and Creator girds Himself as He makes his way down the table to serve the saints. Look as those we watched leave this world suffering with bed sores and pain. Now they are clothed in their glorified bodies looking so young and fresh. Look how they respond to Him as He serves them in that heavenly place. He has waited a long time to humble Himself and come forth for this special occasion. Before the Lord came into this world to redeem His people, the Passover Supper was to celebrate how God delivered His people from the bondage and cruel task masters of Egypt. Now in the day of grace, we are to celebrate this feast in remembrance thankfulness for Christ making the way that the fellowship with God (which was lost through Adam) can be restored and made possible through His death, burial and resurrection.

When we partake of this sacrament service and receive instructions from the elder officiating the service to take the cup and drink, we are to celebrate the new life made available to us through the blood of Jesus which was poured out for us. When we are instructed to eat the bread or substitute that is served to us, we are to celebrate the Atoning work of Jesus and how his body was broken for us. We celebrate this as a proclamation of our faith.

This celebration service should cause us to look forward and anticipate the soon return of our Lord and Savior as King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

Let us celebrate His soon return to get His saints and fulfill His promise to finalize His redeeming work which is the recovering of his greatest creation from the fall of Satan's rebellion.

This alone should create in us a desire to celebrate his communion supper as we remember His great sacrifice that purchased us as a purchased possession while here on Earth looking forward to that day when we will be with Him forever.

Chapter 5

The Tides of the Tithe

Dear reader, God has always had a portion that is His and His alone. We can start by looking at our first man Adam being told he can eat of all the trees in the garden but one and the day he did he would surely die.

God all through history has always had his part.

We can do some old history research and find God allowing man in the outer and the inner court of the temple but the Holy of Holies was off limits except for the high priest to enter once a year offering the blood of the innocent lamb as a substitute for man's sins to be passed over for one more year.

God has always had what we call the **tithe of divine portion** throughout the history of dealing with his people.

He allows us to keep ninety per cent of what we earn and he does not put stipulations on how we should spend it. He asks for ten per cent of our earned wages to fund his gospel.

He knows if we are faithful in our tithes we are showing him love and he has <u>all our</u> heart for he said in his word "if we love him, we will keep his commandments"?

A good many people give to God after they have paid everything else however Moses taught that if we give off the top then it is the same as if we gave the whole check.

You may ask how we know we will be blessed if we do what his word says. Let's say that I am getting into the contracting business, I am new in town and I am not known by many people.

I arrange a meeting with an established contractor that is well known and ask him to use his sources to help me get some of his overflow. I have proven to him with my references and records that I was successful in the business I had established in the other town. The man knows that he has customers that he is unable to service and some help from the right person would help keep his customers happy but he cannot trust his customers to just

anyone but I have convinced him that I am capable of doing the work and he agrees to give me some work. I promise the man that if he will use his power and influence to get me the job that I will pay him a percentage of what the job brings in to which he agrees. Later one of his customers notices him in town and rushes to thank him for referring them to me. They inform him that they are very pleased with my work and thank him for referring them to me.

The man now has a smile on his face and cannot wait to arrange a meeting with me to thank me for servicing his customers. The man informs me that he has decided to trust me with some of his better clients.

The man who used his influence to open the door for me to establish my name and keep his name in good standing with his customers is now satisfied that he made the right decision. I as promised, pay him his percentage and I have an open door of opportunity to make my work and professionalism known in this town which will serve to open other and much larger doors for my business to grow which I could never have attained without his help. Beloved, this is a small illustration of how the same principle works for us in the Kingdom of God.

Beloved, when we give God his part out of a joyful heart in funding His work on Earth, He uses His influence to open doors that we could have never gotten open. He has discovered that He can trust us therefore He opens more ways for us to be blessed because the scripture says that "God loves a cheerful giver."

Today, many good bible believing churches are having to remortgage their loans and even go into foreclosure because people do not see the need to pay their tithes. Some would be ministers are telling them it is a bondage and not a requirement in the New Testament Church. Beloved, some people calling themselves Christians today will purchase a new car, go to movies and live a luxurious life but never see the need to give God His part, to fund his ministry that his work can go on and lives be changed.

We found in earlier study that God made away for His ministers and maintenance of His church to be carried out and he expressed it through the *Lord's Tithe* which is referred to as being *Holy to the Lord*.

In our study, we discovered that it is referred to as a **Covenant of Salt** which like the priesthood of David is forever. My question is how is it bondage when God has chosen us for a partner?

I close this study with some thoughts that I think will show God's intent in allowing us to be involved with His work on Earth especially in our giving. We carefully examined the scriptures describing how God has always had His part starting with the first tree in the garden to the first city after Jericho where God instructed Joshua that everything in that city was to be declared Holy unto the Lord.

God allowed Joshua to be defeated and informed him there is sin in the camp. Joshua did a search and discovered that Achan had disobeyed God and hid the golden wedge and Egyptian garment which brought God's wrath upon the people.

God sees all and searching the scriptures, we find that Christ was watching the woman give the two mites. You might say where are you going with all of this? Beloved, did not Christ after rising from the dead give an offering to God as a first fruit offering of the Old Testament saints?

God works in types and shadows and here we discover that his offering is in direct parallel to the law which states that the man of the harvest must bring a first fruit offering to be blessed by the priest so the whole field can be harvested?

Let's look at some scriptures to begin our study!

(Lev. 23: 17-17) (Acts 26:23 Corinthians 15:20)

Lev 23 ¹⁵ And Ye shall count unto you from the morrow after the Sabbath, from the day that ye brought the sheaf of the wave offering; seven Sabbaths shall be complete:

¹⁶ Even unto the morrow after the seventh Sabbath shall ye number fifty days; and ye shall offer a new meat offering unto the LORD.

¹⁷Ye shall bring out of your habitations two wave loaves of two tenth deals; they shall be of fine flour; they shall be baken with leaven; they are the first fruits unto the LORD.

Acts 26:23 (KJV)

²³ That Christ should suffer, and that he should be the first that should rise from the dead, and should shew light unto the people, and to the Gentiles, I Co. 15:20

²⁰ But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the first fruits of them that slept.

We find in the scriptures that many of the Old Testament saints got up and was seen in the Holy City. The scriptures teach that Paradise was moved to heaven when Christ arose and that he presented those that were in Paradise which was then in the heart of the Earth as a first fruit offering to God. After He ascended into heaven the Holy Spirit was sent to the Earth exactly ten (10) days later.

We also discover in the one thousand year Millennial Reign of Christ on Earth as stated in the book of Revelation that Satan will be bound and Christ will be sitting upon the throne of David.

Beloved, there will still be Nations upon this planet and they will be required to come to Jerusalem and honor the Lord. Beloved, according to the scriptures, there will most likely be some refuse to do so for it is stated in His word that those Nations that fail to comply will receive no rain upon their land. In other words they will not be able to grow their crops.

Beloved, think and meditate on this for a few moments. The scriptures teach us that in the Millennial, there will be people on Earth in their human (mortal) bodies and children will be born during this one thousand years.

This study clearly shows us that from the time of creation, God has always had His part and it would be a blessing for us to honor Him in our giving after all look at all he went through to rescue and purchase us as His prized possession.

My Conclusion

Beloved, the Word states that we are Kings and Priests of our God? My question is what good is a King without sound judgment?

We are supposed to be the Lord's body here on earth and willingly yield our bodies a living sacrifice which is our reasonable service. He wants to use our hands and our feet to reach out to the needy. We are to reach out to the hurting and the culture around us with the good news that we serve a Risen Savior. Again, let me close with saying sometimes God will have us give out of our need to get us to the place where he can richly bless us however we should try the spirits and make sure it is the right one speaking to us. We can know by listening to that still small voice and making sure there are no checks in our spirit. I am talking about looking for the peace of God to come upon us before we act on what someone says God wants us to give to their fund. If you try the Spirits and you have the peace of God upon you then by all means give what comes into your mind to give and remember, we cannot out give Almighty God who will open doors for us that we could never get open.

It is time to get past the Sanctuary of Worship and enter in to a wonderful relationship with Christ who is not flesh and blood but an Eternal Being. Nothing should ever be allowed to take the place of being in His presence. There should never be a question in our mind when it comes to our relationship with Him.

I am talking about people, places, and things including family which are temporal and will come to an end but our place of being in direct relationship with Him will determine how much He can trust us with in the world to come. We need to come into a place of Holy Reverence for who He is and what He has done for us that we might be called sons and daughters of the Most High God. Beloved, we have got to get past regular worship which is filled with man-made forms and agendas which exemplify the flesh more than the Creator. I am talking about when church becomes more than good meetings and good preaching. It is when we get tired of church in the norm and the world being able to sit comfortably in our meetings and there is no conviction of their sin and way of life. When we enter in and seek His presence with our whole heart, we are guaranteed by His word that He shall be found.

Closing Prayer

Father God we come to you in Jesus mighty Name and ask you to give us the Grace of good judgment to keep on making good decisions for we realize that it is a Kingdom Principle! Lord help us to be all we can be for the up-building of Thy Kingdom.

More about the Author

JERRY W. HULSE is the Founder and President of Withered Hand Ministries Inc., and is Co-Founder and Chairman of the Board of Withered Hand Ministries International. Jerry preaches and teaches the word of the gospel of Jesus Christ to a broad audience of people from all walks of life. He is a Christian Author of many Inspirational and Spiritual books. His books have been freely distributed throughout several inner cities in the USA and can be found in many countries throughout the free world.

As a Christian Man, Jerry strives to look pass the faults of others and see people with a real need in their life. Jerry both encourages and teaches many he has witnessed to put their testimonies in a journal including writing their own Christian books. Jerry is employed by Crete Carrier Corporation (2008-present), one of the best trucking companies in America as an OTR driver. Jerry is a Trucker with 30+ years over on the road with a clean safety record. Jerry strives to be a Man of Integrity and live a life to help make a difference in his environment and community. Jerry has formerly ministered and been successful in Radio and TV ministry. This be known throughout the caused him to trucking industry by his CB handle "Guardian Angel" and now "The Evangelist", Evangelizing in all phases and conducting street ministry in the inner cities.

JERRY HULSE is also the *founder* of 'The Call-In Church' a conference call line for trucker to meet and fellowship. Jerry operates in an apostolic and miracle anointing for the kingdom of God. For many years, Jerry is recognized as a chaplain with the Association of Christian Truckers (www.acti70.org.) Jerry maintains a working relationship with their representative Mark Hewitt and speaks with him often concerning the aspects of the ministry and their Christian retreat center known as The Road Angel in Brownstown, Illinois which is an oasis for truckers located on I70 exit 68 between St. Louis and Effingham, Illinois.

God used Jerry to found Guardian Angel Ministries, including the Full Gospel Baptist Association in Bristol, Tennessee, God used found The Call-In Church Jerry to (www.thecallinchurch.com), Presently, Jerry is Founder and President of Withered Hand Ministries, Inc. (www.witheredhand.org). In the successfully hosted Jerry numerous Gospel Radio Shows including: "Two More for Jesus", Johnston City, TN; "Live with Guardian Angel", Church Hill, TN; Jerry also was featured on radio in Rural Retreat Virginia, Tazewell Virginia, Big Stone Virginia, and other stations nationally. Jerry, being a veteran truck driver, has been used of God to make a powerful impact in the trucking community here and abroad.

The CB handle that Jerry uses is 'Guardian Angel' and while Jerry travels the road, he is being used of God to perform miracles and lives have been positively affected by the demonstration of the power of God being shown through Jerry.

The non-traditional aspect of Jerry's ministry allows him to go into places and retrieve those, who otherwise may be out of reach of other ministries. In this end-time push of the spirit, God is using his warriors, such as Jerry Hulse to impact the world and make change. His inspirational books have been used of God to touch many and can be found in many countries throughout the world.

Jerry is Co-Founder of Withered Hand Ministries International that is based Manila, Philippines. Recently, God made a way for Jerry to be accepted into Don Stewart Ministries and Miracle Life Ministries with Pastor Ping Alba which helped open doors of opportunity for him in the Philippines. Jerry's inspirational books can be found on Amazon and other leading outlets. The ministry has many reports from received well-known ministers stating that they were greatly touched while reading one of Jerry's books. The ministry has also made a page on their website where some of Jerry's books can be downloaded for free. (www.witheredhand.org)