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IS IT A CHURCH'S INVENTION?

Some may wonder who invented the tithing practice, why the Church is requiring it, or even why should it be exactly ten percent. Wouldn't a different percentage be acceptable? The answer is that the practice of tithing is not the Church's invention. Like the Sabbath and marriage, tithing has been established by God Himself for all humanity (not only for the Jews), long before the establishment of the Jewish nation, and it is practiced today by all those who recognize God as Creator and Provider, and who accept the whole Bible as His word.

Abraham and Jacob paid the tithe long before the establishment of the Jewish nation, and the law of tithing was reaffirmed for the Israelites when they were about to be established as a nation (Lev. 27:30, 32). But how can we know if the tithe should be ten percent (10%) of all our income or increase? Can we not give another percentage or a different amount? Should we return it only from our salary? What about other income?

The very word 'tithe' is a translation from the Hebrew word 'maaser' which means "a tenth" or ten percent. Not more, not less. So, any other percentage cannot be called 'tithe;' it is very important for the believer to regularly verify his income or increase, from any source, recognize it as a blessing from God and calculate the exact amount that represents one-tenth of the blessing.

APPEAL: Let us follow Solomon's invitation: "Honor the Lord with your possessions, and with the firstfruits of all your increase; so your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will overflow with wine" (Proverbs 3:9, NKJV).

PRAYER: Dear Lord, we recommit our lives to you today, as well as our desire to trust in you, returning the correct percentage of your financial blessings as our tithe. Please, bless us as we worship You!