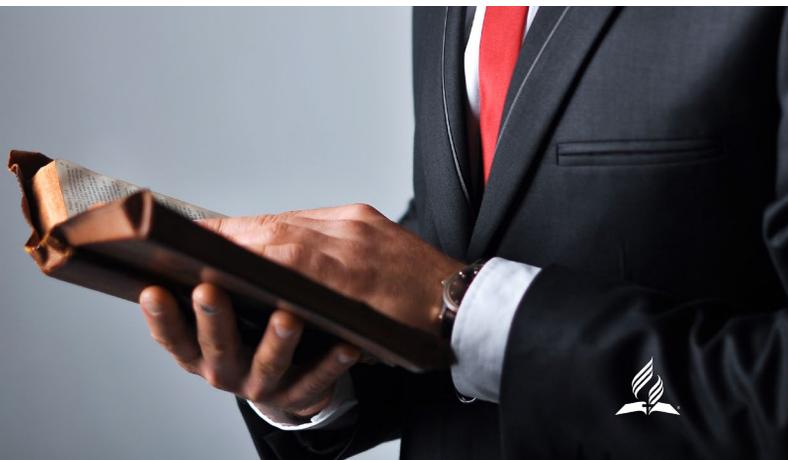


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January 25, 2020

RAMÓN AND THE FAILING PASTOR

“In almost 16 years I have never been visited by my pastor! I really don’t know what he is doing during the week. So, I have decided to give my tithe to charity,” said Ramón (not his real name) to a trusted friend.

Ramon was a good church member. He was still willing to return tithe, but he was hurt. In a very kind way, his friend explained that every person has the free choice to decide if they will follow the Bible about where to bring the tithe and offerings, or if they will follow whatever is right in their own eyes.

In Deuteronomy 12 the Lord made it very clear where He expects us to bring our tithes and offerings: “But you shall seek the place where the Lord your God chooses ... to put His name for His dwelling place; and there you shall go. There you shall take your burnt offerings, your sacrifices, your tithes, the heave offerings of your hand, your vowed offerings, your freewill offerings” (Deut. 12:5, 6). And He made it even clearer: “You shall not at all do as we are doing here today—every man doing whatever is right in his own eyes” (Deut. 12:8).

Ramon’s friend told him that this biblical concept is part of what we know as the “Storehouse Principle,” which explicitly appears throughout the Old Testament but is also implicitly endorsed in the New Testament (1 Cor. 9:13). It is regarding that concept that the Lord Himself says: “Bring all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be food in My house, and try Me now ... if I will not open for you the windows of heaven and pour out for you such blessing that there will not be room enough to receive it” (Mal. 3:10).

APPEAL: The Lord is inviting us today to wholly submit to Him, and to bring our tithes and offerings to where He has told us to take them. And then He invites us to “try Him.” May we accept His invitation and follow His guidance today!

Prayer: Heavenly Father, help us to trust You more and more, and in humble submission to follow Your guidance as found in the Bible, despite our impulses or preconceived ideas. May the Lord Jesus be worshiped with our tithes and offerings. Amen.