

February 1, 2020

WHY AM I BRINGING MY OFFERING?

The telephone rang. The friendly voice on the other end was that of Martha (not her real name): “I don’t agree with the direction my conference is taking with some issues, so I want to know where else I can send my tithes.”

Martha’s struggle would certainly vanish if she could accurately identify God’s appointed recipients of the tithe and offerings. Are we supposed to return the tithe to the pastor or to a church leader? To whom should I give my tithe?

The psalmist understood this issue: “Offer to **God** thanksgiving and pay your vows to the **Most High**” (Ps. 50:14). And David was also sure about the specific place where he should meet the Lord to pay his vows: “I will go into Your house with burnt offerings; I will pay You my vows” (Ps. 66:13), which would certainly also include the tithe.

According to the Bible, the tithe must be brought as an act of worship to God, the true recipient, and be delivered to the storehouse (see Deut. 12; 2 Chron. 31; Neh. 10, 12, 13; Mal. 3:8-10). In the Seventh-day Adventist Church, the local church stands as an outpost of the storehouse, which is the

conference. And God has the capacity to determine how the tithe should be used: to be equally distributed (2 Chron. 31:14-21) to support the authorized gospel ministry worldwide (Num. 18:21; Matt. 28:19, 20; Rev. 14:6).

Tithes and offerings are not to be considered as rewards, leverage, or punishment tools for a leader’s behavior, but as a way to worship God for His many blessings. Basing our giving pattern on the performance of leaders (fallible human beings) may lead us to disregard God’s positive command to bring the tithe and offerings to the storehouse and to try Him (Mal. 3:10).

APPEAL: Are my tithes and offerings manipulated as a display of human power, or are they brought to God’s appointed place to honor and worship Him in humbleness and meekness of heart? Let us ask the Lord to give us the right motivation, as we worship Him in His house of prayer.

PRAYER: Dear Lord, thank You for giving us the privilege to worship You today, as we humbly bring our tithes and offerings to You and into Your house. Amen!

