

## CHAPTER 16

## The Gospels Do Not Endorse Christian Tithing

The modern tithe is spoken of as though it's actually a New Testament doctrine and command. This is shocking; since the New Testament strongly condemns it. The enemies of Christian liberty will no doubt snicker in smug confidence at such indefensible blasphemy. Even some of my allies may think this statement goes a bit too far. But I assure you my position is easily defended.

The New Testament directly names tithing in only one chapter in one book: Hebrews 7 (we discuss this later). The only other places tithing is mentioned is Matthew 23:23 and Luke 11:42; 18:12. Tithe preachers prominently display Matthew and Luke as part of their New Testament justification to demand financial tithes. But their attempt falls far short of the mark.

Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John are physically located in what we call the New Testament. But we must understand that although the Bible is the inspired Word of God, the chronological placement of its books are not.

The placement of all of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John in what we call the New Testament was done by man. Technically, however, the New Testament begins when Jesus rises from the dead. He rises from the dead in Matthew 28, Mark 16, Luke 24, and John 20. Therefore, everything in the gospels prior to these chapters is Old Testament. With this in mind, let's look at the tithe scriptures in Matthew and Luke.