

## CHAPTER 17

## The New Testament Condemns Christian Tithing

The Gospels record that Jesus' greatest enemies were legalistic preachers. Similarly, the New Testament records that legalistic preachers were a grave threat to the new church He founded. Experience proves they are still a grave threat.<sup>112</sup> In anticipation of this timeless struggle, the Holy Spirit interwove Christian liberty throughout the entire New Testament.

This liberty stems from truths of the sufficiency of Christ and salvation through grace and faith. If either of these foundational truths is compromised, the way is opened for legalism (giving motivated by fear) to replace liberty (giving motivated by love). Or in other words, legalism (tithing) in the Christian church survives only when Christ is no longer sufficient, or when salvation is gained through works instead of grace and faith. For if Christ isn't sufficient, people attempt to gain salvation through some other means. So the sufficiency of Christ and salvation through grace and faith can not exist without each other. If you get rid of one, you get rid of the other.

The apostles were extremely keen to this truth. For this reason, they vigorously challenged and refuted even the slightest doctrine or behavior that undermined the sufficiency of Christ or salvation through grace and faith. The modern tithing system undermines both and therefore directly contradicts foundational messages of the New Testament. For this reason, it must be recognized as a tool of Satan and an enemy of the church.