



How the average American lives: Paycheck to Paycheck

- They worry about it- they never have enough.
- They spend it - no investment, no savings, and no giving.
- They may pay a little bit of debt - only if there's money left over.
- They save a little – rarely.
- They may give what's left over - there usually isn't any.

How the rare Christian American lives financially

- They dedicate it. “God, without you I wouldn't even be alive.”
- They give it. Grace-giving tithing to God through their local church
- They save it. “After I pay God first, I pay myself second.”
- They repay it. “I set up a plan to pay off my debt.”
- They enjoy it. They learn to be content in life.

The total of all American charity combined is 1.44% of the gross domestic profit; which, by the way, is not even all our entire wealth. God doesn't bless this kind of format.





Old Testament Tithing Mandate

- First Tithe: The sacred tithe (Numbers 18:21, 24)
- Second Tithe: The tithe of the feasts. (Deuteronomy 14:22-27)
- Third Tithe: The tithe for the poor. (Deuteronomy 14:28, 29)

The first tithe, which is traced back to Abraham, is the sacred tithe given to the Levite priests for the service to the temple and congregation in the Old Testament. This is the tithe we continue to give under the priesthood of Melchizedek in the New Testament. It is a type consecrated to God for the furtherance of the gospel and, therefore, has validity for all believers in Christ.

The Levitical Law required that the Jew had to go up to Jerusalem on certain occasions. In this case the religious ordinance included definitive social provision-periods of vacation for the Levite Priests and his family. And commanded the head of the households of the remaining Jewish population to provide for the vacation expenses by setting aside a second tithe as described in Deuteronomy 14:22-27 which was the tithe of the feasts. So they were commanded to give a second tithe dedicated to the good of mankind themselves, to take care of the spiritual leaders for their vacation and needs.

The second tithe had an entirely different aspect and we would do well to contemplate its meaning and purposes. Our enlightened generation prides itself on the social laws and provisions for those in need. However, a study of the Old Testament proves that thousands of years ago Israel had something that resembles the social systems of today. But they had a much broader purpose that was sacred and spiritual.

The third tithe was the tithe for the poor. We see that later in Deuteronomy chapter 14. The tithe was given only every third year. It would be set aside in the town of the Levite sojourner, the fatherless and widowed could receive a portion of that tithe when they were passing through or living in the village.

