

MHEC Giving of tithes and offering during Covid-19 (and beyond)

A few people have enquired how they can effectively give their tithes and offerings as we are at present not able to physically meet each week.

This actually raises the subject of how we give generally - virus or no virus. We have not had any specific teaching on this over recent years and so our approach to giving may be unclear.

In summary, we believe God's principle of tithing and offerings was not just for those living in the Old Testament time but is still applicable to us today.

Tithes were given by the patriarchs Abraham (Genesis 14:17-20) and Jacob (Genesis 28:22); a system of tithes was instituted in the law of God given through Moses (Deuteronomy 12; 14v22-28; 26) and the prophets rebuked the children of Israel for failing to give the tithe to God (Malachi 3:8).

The idea of the tithe is still present in the New Testament (Matthew 23:23), but it is never explicitly applied to believers. Instead, almost all Christians are called to more extravagant freewill giving in response to the gospel of the Lord Jesus, based on faith in God as Provider (2 Corinthians 9:6-15).

The main principle behind tithing and giving is the fact that what we do with our money shows where our heart is. Matthew 6:21 says "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." When we are able to give 10% or more of our income instead of keeping that money for ourselves (remembering all we have is from God), it shows that our heart isn't tied to our money and that we love God more than our money.

While we as a church we are financially secure in the short term we do need to ensure that we are still giving as God has instructed. Practically the church building needs to be maintained, bills and commitments must be paid etc even though the building is closed, but our motive in giving must be to honour God and see His Name glorified through our testimony as a local church.

If you would like to and are able to make a payment or set up a monthly/weekly standing order to the church the bank details are as follows:

Co-operative Bank

Account Name: Matthew Henry Evangelical Church

Sort Code: 08-92-99

Account No: 65353763

If you do make a payment or set up a standing order it would be useful if you could let Chris know by text to 07742 861772 or e-mail adenchris@tiscali.co.uk so she can check that it reaches the account safely. If you are not able to give in this way but wish to ensure you are still giving please contact Chris and she will try to find a way to help you.

If you have access to the internet the following article is helpful in explaining more about tithing and offerings.

<https://www.crosswalk.com/family/finances/is-tithing-for-the-new-testament-believer-11579309.html>