

ADVANCE THE MINISTRY



NOTE FROM THE PASTOR »



Dear Church Family,

The Lord is doing great things in and through First Baptist Church. We are seeing people reached with the gospel, lives changed, families restored, disciples made, and people being sent to serve the Lord around the world!

One of the reasons why we have been able to do the things we have done is the long tradition of faithful and sacrificial giving by the members of our church. It is because of your faithful giving that we have the best children's ministry in East Texas. It is because of your faithful giving that our facilities have been upgraded and renovated. It is because of our faithful giving that we have events like Serve Day, Fall Festival, and Christmas at First. It is because of your faithful giving that we are able to have the worship services we enjoy each week. I could go on and on. Your faithful giving is making a difference.

But faithful giving doesn't just impact our church and invest in our ministries. Faithful giving honors the Lord, and faithful giving grows our faith and strengthens our families. Jesus said, "Where your treasure is, your heart will be also." Our giving anchors our heart, our families, and our future with the Lord.

I hope this brochure will serve to assist you as you begin to give faithfully and sacrificially through First Baptist Church or assist you as you continue your generous support. Please reach out to me if you have any questions about giving or church finances. I will either help you with the answers or put you in contact with someone who can do so.

In Christ,

Pastor Noel



ADVANCE THE MINISTRY

On Sunday, November 6, everyone in church will have an opportunity to fill out a stewardship commitment card. On this card, each of us will have an opportunity to commit ourselves both to regular, faithful, sacrificial, and proportional giving and to a one-time special gift we are calling: "Advance the Ministry."

Who will see your commitment card? To whom will you turn it in? Good questions! You will NOT turn the card into the church. After we've all made our private commitments, the pastor will ask everyone to just put the card in their Bible. That will be our expression of commitment and trust in the Lord.

You may give your "Advance the Ministry" gift on Sunday, October 30 or in the following week. You may give via the offering boxes in the worship areas, by visiting our website, or by bringing or mailing your gift to the church. If you are giving financial assets and need assistance, reach out to our church financial director, Donna Burchett.

The "Advance the Ministry" gifts will go toward regular budgeted ministry expenses and will serve to help all of our ministries continue their momentum and their service through the end of 2022.



LEGACY GIVING

The first way families are faithful and obedient to the Lord in the matter of giving is with their regular (weekly or monthly), generous, and sacrificial giving. These gifts are the primary way we invest in our ministries and support the work of the church. However, there are additional ways to give and support your church.

- Giving through estate planning...
- Giving through your will...
- Giving through the gift of real estate...
- Giving through the transfer of investments...

Our church has people who can answer questions and advise you as you consider this kind of giving. There is no cost to you and no obligation for one of our advisors to sit down and privately discuss any of these giving options.

Some of the greatest things our church has been able to do through the generations have been the result of legacy giving. We would love to share with you both how you can give in this way and we can suggest some categories and needs where this kind of giving is most needed.

Please reach out to our finance office and ask that someone contact you about legacy giving. One of our confidential advisors will reach out to you.

SPIRITUAL GROWTH

Matthew 6:21 | *For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.*

BLESSINGS FOR FAITHFUL GIVERS

2 Corinthians 9:10–11 | *Now the one who provides seed for the sower and bread for food will also provide and multiply your seed and increase the harvest of your righteousness. You will be enriched in every way for all generosity, which produces thanksgiving to God through us.*

Proverbs 11:24 | *One person gives freely, yet gains more; another withholds what is right, only to become poor.*

Malachi 3:10–11 | *Bring the full tenth into the storehouse so that there may be food in my house. Test me in this way,” says the Lord of Armies. “See if I will not open the floodgates of heaven and pour out a blessing for you without measure. I will rebuke the devourer for you, so that it will not ruin the produce of your land and your vine in your field will not fail to produce fruit,” says the Lord of Armies.*

Philippians 4:19 | *And my God will supply all your needs according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus.*

Luke 6:38 | *Give, and it will be given to you; a good measure—pressed down, shaken together, and running over—will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured back to you.”*

PROPORTIONAL GIVING

2 Corinthians 8:12 | *For if the eagerness is there, the gift is acceptable according to what a person has, not according to what he does not have.*

CONSISTENT & REGULAR GIVING

1 Corinthians 16:2 | *On the first day of the week, each of you is to set something aside and save in keeping with how he is prospering, so that no collections will need to be made when I come.*

GIVING FIRST

Proverbs 3:9 | *Honor the Lord with your possessions and with the first produce of your entire harvest;*

TITHING

Malachi 3:10–11 | *Bring the full tenth into the storehouse so that there may be food in my house. Test me in this way,” says the Lord of Armies. “See if I will not open the floodgates of heaven and pour out a blessing for you without measure. I will rebuke the devourer for you, so that it will not ruin the produce of your land and your vine in your field will not fail to produce fruit,” says the Lord of Armies.*

GREED

1 Timothy 6:10 | *For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, and by craving it, some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.*

Proverbs 21:26 | *He is filled with craving all day long, but the righteous give and don’t hold back.*



GIVING IN DIFFICULT CIRCUMSTANCES

2 Corinthians 8:2–4 | *During a severe trial brought about by affliction, their abundant joy and their extreme poverty overflowed in a wealth of generosity on their part. I can testify that, according to their ability and even beyond their ability, of their own accord, they begged us earnestly for the privilege of sharing in the ministry to the saints,*

EXCEL IN GIVING

2 Corinthians 8:7 | *Now as you excel in everything—in faith, speech, knowledge, and in all diligence, and in your love for us—excel also in this act of grace [giving].*

CHEERFUL GIVING

2 Corinthians 9:7 | *Each person should do as he has decided in his heart—not reluctantly or out of compulsion, since God loves a cheerful giver.*

PLANNED GIVING

1 Corinthians 16:2 | *On the first day of the week, each of you is to set something aside and save in keeping with how he is prospering, so that no collections will need to be made when I come.*

WORRY ABOUT MONEY

Matthew 6:26, 31–33 | *Consider the birds of the sky: They don't sow or reap or gather into barns, yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Aren't you worth more than they? So don't worry, saying, 'What will we eat?' or 'What will we drink?' or 'What will we wear?' For the Gentiles eagerly seek all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be provided for you.*

TRUSTING IN WEALTH

1 Timothy 6:17–19 | *Instruct those who are rich in the present age not to be arrogant or to set their hope on the uncertainty of wealth, but on God, who richly provides us with all things to enjoy. Instruct them to do what is good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and willing to share, storing up treasure for themselves as a good foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of what is truly life.*

GENEROSITY

2 Corinthians 9:6 | *The point is this: The person who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the person who sows generously will also reap generously.*

Psalms 37:21 | *The wicked person borrows and does not repay, but the righteous one is gracious and giving.*

Hebrews 13:16 | *Don't neglect to do what is good and to share, for God is pleased with such sacrifices.*

Proverbs 11:25 | *A generous person will be enriched, and the one who gives a drink of water will receive water.*

OLD TESTAMENT TITHING AND NEW TESTAMENT CHRISTIANITY

REMARKS BY RANDY ALCORN

Does the Old Testament model of tithing still apply to Christians today, since it was part of the old covenant?

I have mixed feelings on tithing. I detest legalism. I certainly don't want to pour new wine into old wineskins, imposing superseded first covenant restrictions on Christians. However, the fact is that every New Testament example of giving goes beyond the tithe. This means that none falls short of it. The strongest arguments made against tithing today are "law versus grace." But does being under grace mean we should stop doing all that was done under the law.

I'm a strong believer in the new covenant's superiority over the old (Romans 7; 2 Corinthians 3; Hebrews 8). On the other hand, I believe there's ongoing value to certain aspects of the old covenant. The model of paying back to God the firstfruits (tithing) and giving freewill offerings beyond that is among those.

Because we are never told that tithing has been superseded, and because Jesus directly affirmed it (Matthew 23:23) and prominent church fathers taught it as a requirement for Christian living, it seems to me the burden of proof falls on those who say tithing is no longer a minimum standard for God's people.

The question is not whether tithing is the whole of Christian giving or even at the center of it. Clearly it is not. Many people associate the command to tithe with the command to keep the Sabbath. New Testament Christians are not obligated to keep the Sabbath with all its legislated rules under the Mosaic covenant (Colossians 2:16).

However, a weekly day of rest based on God's pattern of creation was instituted before the Law (Genesis 2:2–3). It's a principle never revoked in the New Testament. The special day of observance changed to Sunday, "the Lord's day," yet the principle of one special day set aside for worship remained intact.

Christ fulfilled the entire Old Testament, but he didn't render it irrelevant. Old Testament legislation demonstrated how to love my neighbor. Although the specific regulations don't all apply, the principles certainly do, and many of the guidelines are still as helpful as ever. Consider the command to build a roof with a parapet to protect people from falling off (Deuteronomy 22:8). When it comes to the Old Testament, we must be careful not to throw out the baby (ongoing principles intended for everyone) with the bathwater (detailed regulations intended only for ancient Israel).

We don't offer sacrifices anymore, so why should we tithe? Because sacrifices are specifically rescinded in the New Testament. As the book of Hebrews demonstrates, Christ has rendered inoperative the whole sacrificial system. But where in the New Testament does it indicate that tithing is no longer valid? There is no such passage. With a single statement, God could have easily singled out tithing like he did sacrifices and the Sabbath. But he didn't.

Some argue against tithing by saying, "The New Testament advocates voluntary offerings." Yes, but as we've seen, so does the Old Testament. Voluntary giving is not a new concept. Having a minimum standard of giving has never been incompatible with giving above and beyond that standard. If both mandatory and voluntary giving coexisted under the old covenant, why not the new? It's not a matter of either tithing or voluntary offering. The two have always been fully compatible.

The disciples gave all that they had because "much grace was upon them all" (Acts 4:33). It was obvious from the beginning that being under grace didn't mean that New Testament Christians would give less than their Old Testament brethren. On the contrary, it meant they would give more.

Being under grace does not mean living by lower standards than the law. Christ systematically addressed such issues as murder, adultery, and the taking of oaths and made it clear that his standards were much higher than those of the Pharisees (Matthew 5:17–48). He never lowered the bar. He always raised it. But he also empowers us by his grace to jump higher than the law demanded.

WAYS TO GIVE



DURING SERVICES

- You have the ability to give by cash or check and may utilize the offering envelopes found near collection boxes and pew racks.
- Drop your envelope in any of our collection boxes located in the Gym, Sanctuary, Foyer, Welcome Center, Children's Check-in, Music Suite, and Office.
- Use the QR code at any of the collection boxes to easily access our online giving solutions.

ONLINE GIVING

- Giving online at FBCNac.org is easy, safe, and secure.
- Give one-time or setup scheduled recurring transactions.
- Use the FBC Nac App:
 - The First Baptist Church app is the fastest and most convenient way to make a gift.
 - Download our new church app from the Apple or Google Play App Store by searching "fbcnac".

BY MAIL

- Mail cash or check to the church office:
411 North Street, Nacogdoches, TX 75961

IN PERSON

- Feel free to hand deliver your tithe or offering to the church financial office Monday to Thursday 8:00–5:00pm.
- A drop box is also available near the office entry.