

“How Can We Look at Offerings as a Promise to God? Pastor Wilson Explains” was posted on YouTube by Seventh-day Adventist Church on 3/25/21. This 8:02 minute presentation is a plea for money by Ted Wilson, President of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. Ted routinely uses the fake New King James Version (NKJV). When it comes to giving, the fake bibles give the message correctly. Since I don’t wish to use a fake bible, the verses quoted in my review will be from the King James Version (KJV) since the message is the same as in the NKJV.

At 0:14 Ted briefly recalls the story of Abraham, a Masai man in Tanzania who decided to pay tithe on of his large herd of livestock and was richly blessed. It was an inspiring story that I believe to be true. Ted makes the point that when we are faithful to God, He will open the windows of heaven and pour out blessings on us. I believe that to be true but many would like to think the blessings will be an increase in earthly goods and that isn’t necessarily so.

At 1:07 a favorite verse of Seventh-day Adventist ministers asking for money is quoted.

“Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal.” Matthew 6:19-20.

I believe that to be inspired counsel. Ted then says “what an incredible, beautiful thought it is, that today, through the return of tithe and giving of offerings our hearts can be in heaven.” Ted said this even though he had neglected to quote Matthew 6:21 where it says, “where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.” He says, “God loves a cheerful giver.” That’s from 2 Corinthians 9:7; another favorite verse of Seventh-day Adventist ministers when asking for money.

At 1:55 Ted ventures onto sticky ground. He says tithe is “ten percent of all our increase.” Understand that Ted is trying to prove from the Bible that we’re to pay tithe on “all our increase.” There is NO mention of the members of the Christian church of the New Testament being required to pay tithe. Tithe in the Old Testament was given from the increase of agricultural products. While I agree that tithe should be paid on all of our increase, I get that from the Spirit of Prophecy. As will be seen later in this review, there are certain things about tithing in the Spirit of Prophecy I have rarely heard any Seventh-day Adventist minister breath a word of and there is blatant ignoring of inspired counsel.

At 1:58 Ted says God “also asks that we give regular systematic offerings to support the mission of His church.” I believe in giving “regular systematic offerings” but you won’t find that mandated to the New Testament Christians. By the part about “the mission of His church” I believe Ted is claiming that the “regular systematic offerings” should be given to the Seventh-day Adventist Church and not to one of what are called “independent ministries.” In my opinion, some Seventh-day Adventist leaders have become quite smug thinking people will keep giving to them even when the money is used as they want it used and not as it’s supposed to be used. They would like you to believe that “the storehouse” is the organized Seventh-day Adventist Church only. Sister White disagreed.

“Send no statement of the situation through our religious papers; because it will not be honored. Send direct to the people. God’s ways are not to be counterworked by man’s ways. Have this money come direct to your destitute portion of the vineyard. The Lord has not specified any regular channel through which means should pass.” *Spalding & Magan’s Unpublished Manuscript Testimonies of Ellen G. White* page 202 (498).

Sister White gave tithe to certain needy ministers and called the destination of those funds “the Lord’s treasury.”

“I have myself appropriated my tithe to the most needy cases brought to my notice. I have been instructed to do this; and as the money is not withheld from the Lord’s treasury, it is not a matter that should be commented upon; for it will necessitate my making known these matters, which I do not desire to do, because it is not best.” *Spalding & Magan’s Unpublished Manuscript Testimonies of Ellen G. White* page 89 (215).

There are certain things tithe is NOT to be used for.

“One reasons that the tithe may be applied to school purposes. Still others reason that canvassers and colporteurs should be supported from the tithe. But a great mistake is made when the tithe is drawn from the object for which it is to be used—the support of the ministers.” *Testimonies for the Church* volume 9 pages 248-249.

“There are fearful woes for those who preach the truth, but are not sanctified by it, and also for those who consent to receive and maintain the unsanctified to minister to them in word and doctrine.” *Testimonies for the Church* volume 1 pages 261-262.

The whole *Sabbath School Bible Study Guide* for the first quarter of 2018 was about stewardship and contained fifty-eight references from the Spirit of Prophecy counseling people to pay and containing not a peep to imply that there were situations in which it was appropriate to give tithe to some other entity than the organized Seventh-day Adventist Church. Also lacking was any statement that it is wrong to use tithe for any other purpose than the support of ministers.

Is it the practice of the Seventh-day Adventist Church to use tithe only for the support of the ministers? In the Florida Conference in 2019 only 34.6% of tithe went to “Pastors/Ministerial.” The rest went to something else. Doubtless some of the tithe that allegedly went to its designated purpose was used to finance the illegitimate office of ordained (or the sneakier commissioned) female ministers.

For a change, rather than hearing the stories about how people are blessed when they give, I would like to hear stories about how God’s church and its leaders have been blessed when they use God’s money only for its intended purpose. Until such time that I can have confidence that money I give will be used for its intended purpose, I will put money in God’s treasury for endeavors that I believe are using God’s funds as they should be used.

At 2:07 Ted alleges that “systematic offerings” are “different than freewill offerings.” He goes on to say that “the Bible also tells us that we should be systematic in our offerings.” Ted provided no reference from “the Bible” to prove that “systematic” offerings are different than “freewill” offerings. He seems to think “systematic” offerings are those that are predetermined by the giver as a percentage of income. As far as I know, Ted has made this up. I know of know no Bible or Spirit of Prophecy reference that defines systematic offerings in that way.

At 3:17 time is devoted to a video by the stewardship department of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. The background music is trashy music like you hear in many commercials. It was painful to listen to. Allegedly, “promisors” are those who regularly give “a percentage of their income as offering, in addition to the tithe.”

Ted should have discussed this a little more in language people would be more likely to understand. A “promisor” is one who make a promise. According to Black’s Law Dictionary a promise is “A declaration, verbal or written, made by one person to another for a good and valuable consideration, in the nature of a covenant by which the promisor binds himself to do or forbear some act, and gives the promisee a legal right to demand and enforce a fulfillment.” Another way to say it, a promisor has made a pledge, an oath or a vow. NOWHERE in Scripture does it say one is required to make a pledge, oath or vow. I would advise no one to become a “promisor” until they retrieve their KJV Bible and look up the words pledge, oath and vow.

The question is asked, “But isn’t the tithe enough?” Rest assured, neither tithe nor offering will ever be enough. There are those who will find a way to spend the money no matter how much is given. I would have no problem with that if the money was used for projects I could have confidence in. When an offering is taken for that fountain of apostasy, Andrews University, I lose confidence in the judgement of ministering brethren. When I hear an ordained Seventh-day Adventist minister who is employed by the church say we should push back against the “ancient words” meaning the Bible, I know tithe money is not being used appropriately. When the Columbia Union Conference has the money to send a “Year of the Bible Devotional Book” of 398 pages replete with references from fake bibles to every family in the Columbia Union Conference when those families should be studying the Bible and Spirit of Prophecy, I lose confidence in the judgment of ministering brethren. When the North American Division has the money to publish a book titled *ISSUES: The Seventh-day Adventist Church and Certain Private Ministries* measuring 8.25 inches wide, 10.75 inches tall and 1 inch thick the purpose of which is to put down independent ministries that accept tithe and offering money and that DO use the money for appropriate purposes, it gives me the impression that some princes of our church are money grubbing hypocrites.

At 4:23 the speaker, whoever she is says, “Another difference is that while the tithe must be used exclusively for supporting the authorized ministry (Num. 18:21,24), offerings should cover a wider range of other important necessities for the spreading of the gospel around the world.” Regarding the tithe, that is true and that is not what is done.

At 5:35 Ted is back and the music mercifully ends.

SatanIsDead.com
InfallibleBible.com
AdventistsToday.com
SabbathSchoolGuide.com