



# Liberty Matters

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Liberty Trust began with a bang in 1989 after many seminars and teaching opportunities throughout New Zealand. We were flooded with families and individuals joining at once to share our ministry. These were in every sense pioneers who were supporting God's vision to release His people without relying on historical evidence. Today these people have all been rewarded and blessed with the offer of interest free loans exactly when predicted and with Ark Resources we have been able to lend over \$4.6 million interest free to date. Those who have received interest free loans have been able to become debt free many years sooner and saved tens of thousands of dollars, able to be re-channelled into the work of God's Kingdom where they are greatly needed.

We are not satisfied with just this. We long to have a still greater impact on the our world than through just these people. Christians are stewards of God's resources. Why should others spend 20—25 years working just to secure a home? Why should they need to give mortgage providers the value of their house again in interest? Why should they be at the mercy of interest rate fluctuations? Why should the churches, mission societies and aid organisations be held back through lack of funds because Christians are in debt? God has provided a better way. By pooling our resources and lending to one another interest free we can revolutionise the work of the gospel in the last days.

If you would like to arrange a meeting in your church or public venue contact us today. As more people share our ministry the time you presently wait for your loan will decrease and more importantly, others will be set free from bondage to their mortgages to live and give with Kingdom liberty!

## Portrait of a Trustee

Mark hails from England and is a naturalised Kiwi Bloke who enjoys sailing and has recently taken up skiing and golf again. He loves family activities with his wife Sue and their three children in their caravan and little yacht. Mark is kept busy as Information Services Manager of Environment BOP and is a valuable trustee. He uses his computing and mathematical expertise to run simulations of Liberty Trust and calculate the impact and effects of different scenarios on waiting time. Mark is passionate about balancing a strong spiritual life with good mental and emotional health and is interested to hear how members use the freedom that Liberty Trust can bring in financial areas. One of his favorite verses is Galatians 5 verse 1:



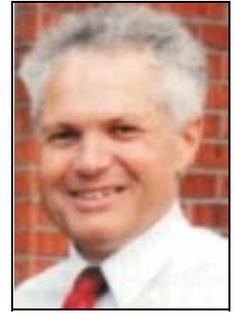
Mark Langridge



*It was for freedom that  
Christ has set you free!*

And God is able to make all grace (every favour & earthly blessing) come to you in abundance, so that you may always and under all circumstances and whatever the need, be self-sufficient, possessing enough to require no aid or support and furnished in abundance for every good work and charitable donation.  
2 Corinthians 9 verse 8 (Amp)

# Tithing to God



Kelvin Deal

We are often asked about tithing. It is a controversial subject which many would rather avoid but it introduces important Scriptural principles that God wishes us to understand.

## The Principle of the Tithe

The principle of tithing is first expressed in Genesis 14 verses 18—20. Melchizedek, a representation of Christ himself (Psalm 110 verse 4), met with Abraham and offered him bread and wine. In response Abraham gave a tithe (a tenth) of everything he had as a worshipful free-will offering. This is a powerful prophetic illustration of Christ giving bread and wine at the last supper. There is no doubting the link between God's reconciliation with man through Christ at the cross and our worshipful offering back to Him.

## The Commanded Tithe

Before entering the promised land the Israelites were given the law to follow and promised blessings or curses according to whether they followed God's commands (Deuteronomy 28—29). Leviticus 27 verse 30 introduces the command to tithe "*A tithe of everything from the land belongs to the Lord*".

The tithe for the first two of every three years harvest was to be used for food for the family's annual pilgrimage to Jerusalem for the Feast of Tabernacles (Deuteronomy 14 verses 22—27). It seems that the Israelites only tithed to others once every third year after they settled in the promised land. Deuteronomy 14 verses 28 & 29 explains what happened every third year: "*And at the end of every third year you shall bring out the tithe of your produce of that year and store it within your gates. And the Levite, because he has not inheritance with you, and the stranger, and the fatherless and the widow who are within your gates may eat and be satisfied, that the Lord your God may bless you in all the work of your hand which you do.*"

The main message of the prophet Amos was to pronounce God's judgment upon Israel for their exploitation and oppression of the poor. He proclaimed "*Bring your sacrifices every morning and your tithes every three years*" (Amos 4 verse 4). The most commonly quoted verses commanding tithing are from the prophet Malachi 3 verses 9—11 who pronounces that Israel is under a curse because it is robbing God of tithes and offerings. Verse 10 proclaims "*Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse that there may be food in My house*".



In summary tithing was commanded under the law every two years for the household's use on their pilgrimage to the feast of Tabernacles. Every third year's tithe was to storehouses kept by the civil rulers in each town or city for the four classes of people who were not provided for under the system of inherited land. The only part that was used for worship at the temple was a tenth of the Levite's 25% share, i.e. 2.5% (see Numbers 18 verse 26 and Nehemiah 10 verse 38). The temple was primarily supported by other means such as the many sacrifices and offerings and the annual atonement money (Exodus 30 verses 11-16). The Mosaic commandment to tithe seems largely to have been written to provide food for those in the towns and cities who were not provided for under the system of land inheritance. God promised blessing for those who obeyed His law and curses for those who didn't. By comparison to "The Principle of the Tithe" it is so different that one wonders whether it really was based on the principle or was simply a form of taxation to provide for the needy. This is highly debatable.

## Tithing to God

But to return to the practical, there is an overwhelming desire shown through the Bible that our giving to God should be as a joyous offering, not a compliant obligation, to God. We are descendants of Abraham and under the covenant of faith, freed from bondage to the law (Galatians 3 verses 1-16) and the last thing God wants to see is legalistic calculations to see how much we must give. Paul writes in 2 Corinthians 9 verses 6-8 "*Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work*".

A question we are often asked is whether contributions to Liberty Trust should be regarded as part of one's tithe. Contributions are an investment you have made as a steward of God's resources. You had a choice whether to pay interest to a bank or contributions to a part of God's Kingdom. As the cost of interest is up to three times higher than contributions you will benefit financially. We believe there is no reason therefore why you should reduce your tithe giving to your church.

Tithing is an important Scriptural principle. We believe each believer needs to balance the principle shown in Genesis 14 with the teachings of Jesus. Undoubtedly a tithe of our income belongs to the Lord (Leviticus 27 verse 30). But Jesus also tells us that everything we have belongs to God (Parable of the Talents, Matthew 25 verses 14-29). The important principle is that God would have us give according to His leading as a generous, joyous, worshipful sacrifice to Him.

I would be happy to discuss this further with those interested.