The Divine Law of Finance: Mormons and Tithing

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Specific Disclaimer

- Members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints are often referred to as "Mormons" or "LDS." These terms are used herein for brevity.
- Mr. Lloyd is not an official spokesman for the Church and his opinions are his own.

- Mormons obey the spiritual of leaving onetenth (a tithe) of all they have been blessed with.
- This is a tenth of one's "interest"
- There is almost no guidance on what is "tithe-able" income (such as an inheritance), though there are common definitions.
- Do you tithe on gross salary, salary less FICA,something else?





 "The exact amount paid is not as important as that each member feels that he or she has paid an honest tenth."

Tithing

34.4.1.1

Definition of Tithing

The First Presidency has written: "The simplest statement we know of is the statement of the Lord himself, namely, that the members of the Church should pay 'one-tenth of all their interest annually,' which is understood to mean income. No one is justified in making any other statement than this" (First Presidency letter, Mar. 19, 1970; see also Doctrine and Covenants 119:4).

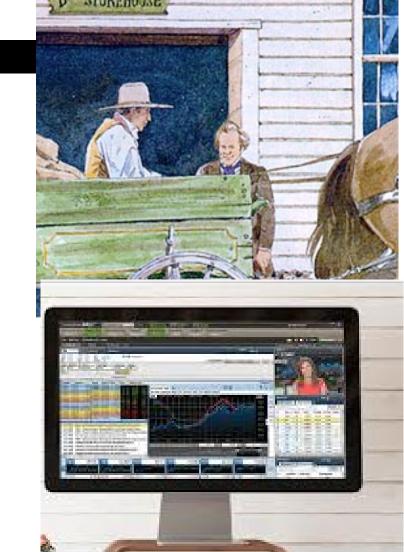
Wherefore, verily I say unto you that all things unto me are spiritual, and not at any time have I given unto you a law which was temporal; neither any man, nor the children of men; neither Adam, your father, whom I created.

Doctrine and Covenants 29:34, emphasis added

"Tithing means one-tenth of a person's income, interest, or increase. The merchant should pay tithing upon the net income of his business, the farmer upon the net income of his farming operations; the wage earner or salaried man upon the wage or salary earned by him. Out of the remaining nine-tenths he pays his current expenses ... etc."



- Temporal blessings, including talents, are gifts from God (Psalms 24, Deuteronomy 8, D&C 46)
- Everyone pays the same amount
- Originally, tithes were paid "in-kind," as produce and livestock



- Is an estate "titheable"?
- Is an inheritance "tithe-able"?
- Is "interest" before or after Social Security deductions?
- Capital gains?
- Self employment?



- Practical aspects of paying a tenth:
 - Charitable lead trusts, donor advised funds, and other devices
 - "Bunching" deductions in a single year
 - Donating with appreciated assets
 - Using retirement plan assets to pay charity in the form of Qualified Charitable Distributions (QCDs)

HE WHO GIVES MONEY GIVES MUCH;
HE WHO GIVES TIME GIVES MORE;
BUT HE WHO GIVES OF HIMSELF

GIVES ALL.

THOMAS S. MONSON

Conclusion and Additional Information

Handout materials are available for download or printing on the HANDOUT TAB on the gotowebinar console. If the tab is not open click on that tab to open it and view the materials.







Additional Sources

- https://newsroom.churchofjesuschrist.org/article/church-of-jesus-christ-finances
- https://eom.byu.edu/index.php/Tithing

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