

October 15, 2022. Local Church Budget

One Place... One God

Appeal: Lev. 17:5a

“This is so that the Israelites will bring their sacrifices they are now making in the open fields. They must bring them to the priest, that is, to the Lord, at the entrance to the tent of meeting and sacrifice them as fellowship offerings.”

We bring our regular offerings and tithe to church because it is part of true worship. Leviticus 17:5 gives instruction about the appropriate place to offer sacrifice in Ancient Israel. There was a central place to give, with no provision for alternatives. One may legitimately ask why the place was so significant. Interestingly, the text focuses not only on the place, the tent of meeting, but also on the One who received their sacrifices, the Lord. For the Israelites, the tent of meeting was the “tabernacle of the LORD,” the place where the Lord resides. Ultimately, the restriction about the place had to do with who they were worshipping. Relocating the place where they brought their sacrifices was typical of idol worship at the time. God designated one place for sacrifice because He wanted to be the sole object of their worship.

Today, the appropriate destination for tithe and regular offerings remains a frequently asked and debated question. The example of King David provides us with an answer: “I will come to your temple with burnt offerings and fulfill my vows to you—” (Psalm 66:13). Ellen G. White applies this principle to God’s people today: “The time has come when the tithes and offerings belonging to the Lord are to be used in accomplishing a decided work. They are to be brought into the treasury to be used in an orderly way to sustain the gospel laborers in their work”—Manuscript Release, vol. 19, p. 376. She specifies that place as the church treasury with the appropriate agency to support God’s mission. However, this does not remove our social responsibility towards the poor and needy. We should apportion special donations for this purpose (Ellen G. White, Welfare Ministry, p. 275).

This week we have another opportunity to bring our tithe and regular offerings to God’s church. While we worship at God’s designed place, let us choose once again to make Him the sole object of our worship.

Prayer: Lord, we thank You for the instruction about the destination and usage of our tithe and regular offerings. Help us trust Your wisdom and remain faithful.