



iQuestions Faculty, Ron Blue

Question:

Do I give based on the gross or the net?

Answer:

You know, I am asked that question all of the time, "Should I tithe on the gross or the net?" What people are usually talking about is, "Do I tithe on the gross amount on my paycheck, or the net amount of the cash that I actually receive after all of the tax withholdings?" It's interesting, because most people believe that the tithe is on what they receive. They don't realize that they really received 100% of their paycheck, and all that they did with the tax withholding was that the government took its share before you had to pay it on April 15th.

My flippant answer to whether I should tithe on the gross or the net is, "Well, do you want God to bless the gross or the net?" And, "Would you rather have as your income the gross or the net?" Obviously, you would always rather have the gross, in terms of your income. And so, tithing on the gross or the net is largely an artificial question—and it's a question that has only come up in the last 40 or 50 years—because there didn't use to be any government withholding. So, there was not even a question of tithing on the gross or the net 40 or 50 years ago. It has just become a fairly recent conversation.

Bottom line? Tithe on the gross, because that's your income.