

April 6, 2019

## **Local Church Budget**

***Tax time!*** Through the years, the government has discussed whether to continue the deduction for charitable gifts. The day may come when this is no longer allowed. Questions in the minds of churches and other non-profits are, “How much would this affect their revenue?” and, “How much is this tax break an incentive in people’s giving?”

We are used to the idea of the charitable deduction because of the countries in which we live, but many other countries don’t have this benefit. Yet our people in these places are nevertheless faithful in their tithes and offerings.

A question to ask ourselves might be, “How does this affect *my* giving?”

Jesus tells us: “Therefore, when you do a charitable deed, do not sound a trumpet before you as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may have glory from men.

Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward. But when you do a charitable deed, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, that your charitable deed may be in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will Himself reward you openly” (Matt. 6:2-4, NKJV).

So, let us enjoy the deduction while we have it, but continue to be faithful regardless of what governments do or don’t do. Today’s offerings is for Local Church Budget.