

“The Call to Worship God with our Finances” 2/25/18

Malachi 3:6-12

Sermon Series- “*Malachi- Overcoming Spiritual Indifference and Complacency*”

Have you wondered: Does God really love me? Where is the proof? Is my worship to the Lord authentic? Do I really love God? Am I faithful in my relationships and in my marriage? Do I really have genuine faith in Him? Is my financial giving to the Lord pleasing to Him? Is it enough? Is serving God really worth it? Our study of Malachi answers these questions!

Big Idea- We need to recognize that God’s character doesn’t change, He is faithful to bless us as we seek to honor him with our finances.

“For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also” (Matthew 6:21).

LESSON 1- The responsibility we have in giving needs to be RECOGNIZED Vv. 6-9

- A. God hasn’t changed nor left them. He is still COMPASSIONATE
- B. They left God and neglected their stewardship through ROBBERY
- C. Their finances were cursed by God for their UNFAITHFULNESS
(1 Corinthians 6:19-20; 10:26 – we are stewards only; God owns it all)

LESSON 2- The responsibility we have in giving needs to be RELINQUISHED V. 10a

- A. God commands them to give to Him what they OWE

Law of the Tithe: 1) Tithe for Levites (Num 18:21-32; Lev 27:30); 2) Tithe for celebration (Deut 14:22-26), 3) Every third year to be used for welfare (14:28-29).

OT LAW has been changed/set aside (Heb 7:12, 18), nullified (Eph 2:15), is obsolete (Heb 8:13), is passing away (2 Cor 7:3-13), lasted until death of Jesus (Gal 3:19), is fulfilled in Jesus (Matt 5:17).

NT References to Tithe- Matt 23:23; Luke 11:42; 18:12; Hebrews 7:5, 6, 8, 9

NT Grace Giving: 1) Consistent (1 Cor 16:1-2); 2) Cheerful (2 Cor 9:7); 3) Sacrificial (Mark 12:41-44); 4) In appreciation for God’s gift (2 Cor 8:9; 9:15)

“I do not believe one can settle how much we should give. I am afraid the only safe rule is to give more than we can spare.” C.S. Lewis

“God judges what we give by what we keep.” George Mueller.

LESSON 3- The responsibility we have in giving brings REWARDS Vv. 10b-12

- A. God challenged them to examine their giving and take His TEST
- B. God promises to protect their finances and make them BLESSED
(Matt 19:27-30; 5:12; 6:1, 4, 6, 18; 10:41; Luke 18:29-30; 6:38; 1 Cor 3:8; 3:14; Revelation 22:12)

Going Deeper *God desires for us to demonstrate our love and faith by being generous!*

Our Vision- Striving to be Disciples who make Disciples

Captain Levy, a believer from Philadelphia, was once asked how he could give so much to the Lord's work and still possess great wealth. The Captain replied, "Oh, as I shovel it out, He shovels it in, and the Lord has a bigger shovel."

"But this I say: He who gives sparingly will also receive sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully." 2 Corinthians 9:6

"Give, and it will be given to you: good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be put into your bosom. For with the same measure that you use, it will be measured back to you." Luke 6:38