

"THE SURE ROAD TO THE BLESSING OF GOD"

"TITHING"

MALACHI 3:8-12

INTRO: Everyone wants a blessing from God. And yet, there are many Christians who really miss out on the easiest way of receiving God's blessing. What way is that? **THE WAY OF THE EASIEST BLESSING FOR THE CHRISTIAN AFTER SALVATION IS TITHING, OR GIVING UNTO THE LORD.** If you tithe, you will know this as a personal fact as you have seen God work in providing a great blessing for you over the years. If you do not tithe, you really have no idea what we are talking about here. So, let's observe Malachi 3:8-12 where God sets for the PRINCIPLE OF THE BLESSING OF THE TITHE.

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NOTE: Tithing was a part of God's program for His people for generation upon generation. We may not know exactly when the first command to tithe was given but we do know that Melchizadek, the King of Salem (Jerusalem), gave tithes to Abram 1913 years before Christ as is recorded in Genesis 14:20. Then we see that Jacob made a vow unto God to give a tithe around 1760 years before Christ as recorded in Genesis 28:22. We also see that tithing was a command of the Lord as revealed in His law according to Leviticus 27:30 around 1491 BC. **SO TITHING HAS BEEN THE NORMAL EXPECTATION OF GOD FOR HIS PEOPLE FOR CENTURIES.**

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NOTE: There are some who say that "THE TITHE IS NOT FOR NEW TESTAMENT BELIEVERS." **WHERE IS THAT RECORDED IN SCRIPTURE? IT IS NOT THERE!** The Apostle Paul does not mention the tithe when he writes about giving in 2 Corinthians 8 and 9, but that could be simply because TITHING WAS THE ASSUMED PRACTICE FOR GOD'S PEOPLE." The more we study the tithe, the more we may come to the conclusion that TITHING IS THE PLACE TO START GIVING TO THE LORD, NOT THE END.

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NOTE THE INSTRUCTION OF THE TITHE IN MALACHI 3

According to the Scripture, a tithe is a tenth, so tithing means giving 10 % of one's earnings back to God. According to 2 Corinthians 9:6-8 giving unto the Lord is to be **BOUNTIFUL AND CHEERFUL, NOT GRUDGLINGLY OR OUT OF NECESSITY.** When Christians give this way, God's promise in Malachi 3:10 holds true. **HE WILL HEAP SO MUCH BLESSING ON THEM THAT THERE WILL NOT BE ROOM FOR IT ALL!**

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I. THE ROBBING OF GOD – VS. 8

A. By not giving to God.

B. The Tithe rightly belongs to God and God alone – Leviticus 27:30-32.

Cp. 1 Chronicles 29:14b. Thus the failure to give FAITHFULLY and GENEROUSLY to the Lord is to rob God and to miss out on a lot of blessing.

ILLUSTRATION:

II. THE CURSING OF GOD – VS. 9

A. Because of not giving to God.

B. We do not know specifically what the curse was that Israel faced due to not tithing unto God but an indication of what happens when one disobeys God is shown in Deuteronomy 28:15ff.

ILLUSTRATION:

III. THE BLESSING OF GOD – VS. 10

A. The Blessing of God is clear.

1. It comes when God's Children Obey Him with the Tithe.

2. It comes with the opportunity to "Prove" or "Test" God. This is the only place in all of the Bible that we are gold to "Prove" God.

3. It comes in an Abundant manner – Not enough "room to receive it."

B. The Blessing of God is sure.

HE WILL DO IT!

SEVEN REASONS WHY TITHING IS IMPORTANT FOR EVERY ONE OF US. WHEN WE TITHE CERTAIN BIBLICAL PRINCIPLES ARE ACTIVATED.

1) We put God First – When you put God first things will begin to happen in your life that you will never experience until you do. Cp. Matthew 6:33

- 2) We Prove God's Promise – Doing what God tells us to do prompts Him to POUR OUT HIS BLESSINGS UPON US.
 - 3) We Profit from God's Provision – We do so in ways and places we never dreamed of. God will provide all of our needs.
 - 4) We Praise God's Name – We could never repay the Lord for what he has done, but we can surely praise His Name!
 - 5) We Personalize God's Word – We make the Word of God a vital part of our personal lives and then WATCH HIM WORK and consequently bear witness of His greatness.
 - 6) We Practice Godliness – Obedience (tithing) requires a step of faith.
 - 7) We Participate in God's Work – When we tithe we pool our resources together with other Christians for the cause of God's Work in saving souls and building the church.
- ILLUSTRATION:

IV. THE PROVISION OF GOD – VSS. 11,12

- A. God will Give us Personal Protection from the Enemy – Vs. 11
- B. God will Exalt us Before Others – Vs. 12

ILLUSTRATION;