

↪ **Malachi 3:6-12** Last time we began looking at the fact that God never changes, and three particular things that we can count on to never change with regard to our relationship to Him. First, God's passion for purity, **1st Thessalonians 4:3-4**. Like refiner of silver, He is purifying our lives. This week: the second thing that never changes about Him is His blessings on those who give. **Malachi 3:6-12, Proverbs 3:9-10**. Jesus echoes this same principle, **Luke 6:38**.

1. First and foremost, this isn't a financial issue; it is a heart issue.

- ✓ God is bent on us being holy, pure, and Christlike (a heart issue). He is not simply bent on you increasing your giving, which may or may not have any effect on your heart. When it comes to anything, especially money, your heart is the heart of the matter, **Matthew 6:24**.
- ✓ This is because God knows that the #1 competitor of our hearts is money (stuff or possessions). **Matthew 6:21**. The way you understand and handle your money will have a profound effect on your life spiritually, **1st Timothy 6:10**.

2. Because our hearts are at the heart of it, what do we need to know about money?

- 1) First and foremost, we need to know that it's not ours, **Psalms 24:1; 1st Chronicles 29:14**.
- ✓ Don't ever think God is impressed by what you give; it was already all His to begin with! He doesn't want or need your money, but He does want your heart because our hearts are tied to the money in our wallets; He's very concerned about our giving.
- ✓ Finances can be such a burden and such a disastrous thing for us because of greed and jealousy, and then using it to fill a void that only God can fill. Finances can be such a blessing, and such an incredible way to be blessed by things that money can't buy.
- 2) It's not yours and it will all be taken back from you in the very near future, **Proverbs 23:5**.
- 3) We will have to give an account for how we used it, **Romans 14:11-12**.

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