

Malachi: Things that Never Change, Part 3

- ↪ We have been pursuing the three things listed here in Malachi that never change: God's passion for purity; and then for the second time concerning His blessing on those who give. It's a changeless principle: God always blesses those who give to Him first. Do you believe Him?
 - ↪ Why do we talk about money? Because Jesus talked so much about it!, 16 out of 29 parables deal with money. Because money follows our hearts, God is intensely interested in which direction your money is flowing.
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- ☑ **We built a foundational understanding of money last time by learning that it isn't ours, we won't keep it long, and we will be held accountable for all of it.**
 - ✓ What do we need to do to be where God wants us to be in the money department?
 - ✓ A fourth point: God demands our first and our best; something that is labeled throughout the Bible as the "tithe." The Tithe = 10%, always the first 10%, even if you give 10%, but it's not from the first of what you have, it isn't a tithe.
 - ✓ It's not just the amount, but when you give it that matters. The first thing you do is what is most important to you; it's where your heart is; it's what matters most to you. The God who created you and to whom you owe everything asks to be first in your life; put Him first in your money, so that He can bless the rest of it. Put Him first in your life so that He will be able to show through your life what happens in this world to those who put Him first. This is not hard to follow is it?
 - ✓ Let's deal with the argument that says that the tithe was only for the Old Testament times and in particular, for those under the law. People argue that since the tithe was enforced under the old covenant and Law and that we are now not under law but under grace, that we no longer need to tithe. My advice is that we need to read our bibles more thoroughly, because the same tithe that was enforce under the law is the same one that is enforce after the Law because it was enforce prior to the Law!
 - ✓ **Genesis 14:19-20; Genesis 28:21-22**; both these guys lived more than 400 years before a single law of Moses was ever written. The Tithe is a biblical standard, not an Old Testament or Old Covenant standard. Again, God doesn't demand something from us because He needs it; He demands something from us because we need it.
 - ✓ The standard of the New Testament is greater than the tithe; the standard is sacrificial giving. Emphasis is tithe (the minimum) and then offerings (beyond the tithe) **Malachi 3: 8**.
 - ✓ God knows what a heart that is not focused on Him will do to itself: turn inward, alienate others, destroy relationships, be unproductive or counterproductive, cause many heartaches and regrets. God will not stand for you to destroy your life and the lives of others. God will pick at every detail that will lead you in the wrong way: why does the giving thing matter? The love of money is the root of all kinds of evil, a proven fact!
 - ✓ You say you can't afford to tithe; the Bible says you can't afford not to!

Verses 8-9; You can't afford a curse on your finances!, verse 11. You can't afford to not have that devourer rebuked in your life!
