

## Malachi: Things that Never Change, Part 4

- ↪ **Malachi 3:13-18**; We have been pursuing the three things listed here in Malachi that never change: God's passion for purity; and then His blessing on those who give, and, now, God's system of bookkeeping. Sometimes we are tempted to think that it doesn't pay to do the right thing, to live right and honor God in a world that goes the other way. Sometimes it seems like no good deed goes unpunished; where's the pay off, where's the benefit?
- ↪ God is a bookkeeper, but His system isn't like ours, it's far better!
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### 1. Giving is receiving.

- ✓ **Acts 20:35**; Do you believe Him? He underscores again and again that His blessing is more valuable than any amount of stuff you have. **Luke 12:15** All that stuff, but not blessed, no peace, and no favor. He has an extra column in His bookkeeping that is titled "blessed." It's a different type of books, and it's far better!

### 2. The books don't have to balance to show a profit, verses 13-18. Does it pay to serve God?

- ✓ It seems like the sinners are the only ones prospering. If it feels that way, it's because you're looking at the wrong set of books! God's books balance quite differently. In the short run, it may not seem that way, but in the long run, the figures never lie.
- ✓ David caught himself looking at the wrong set of books. **Psalms 73, verse 3**; It seemed to him that everything went well for them, but he got a glance at real bookkeeping, **verses 16-17**. The books aren't closed and accounts aren't settled in this life! They are settled in the next life where all our accumulation can come to nothing.
- ✓ It's not just in the next life that the world's bookkeeping doesn't work. If you take a close look at what the world pays to have what it has in relationships, heartache, broken promises, sleepless nights, fear and anxiety, **they are paying way too much for what they are getting**.

### 3. You don't get what you pay for. The price you have to pay in this life in no way compares to the payout when the real books are settled!

- ✓ The seemingly low pay for doing what's right and serving the Lord has an extremely high dividend yield! God way overpays; **Matthew 10:42; Romans 8:18; 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 2:9**.

### 4. The book that matters the most has no numbers in it, verse 1.

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