

GIVING - HOW MUCH? TO WHOM?

MALACHI 3:7-10 - ERIC SIMPSON - FEBRUARY 5, 2017

"There is within the human heart a tough fibrous root of fallen life whose nature is to possess. Always to possess. It covets things with a deep and fierce passion. The pronouns 'me' and 'mine' look innocent enough in print but their constant and universal use expresses the real nature of the old [self] better than a thousand volumes of theology. They are verbal symptoms of our deep disease. The roots of our hearts have grown down into things and we dare not pull up one root lest we die. Things have become necessary to us. A development never originally intended. God's gifts have taken the place of God and the whole course of our nature has been upset by this monstrous substitution." – A.W. Tozer

Giving—How much?

Genesis 14:18-20, Genesis 28:20-22, Leviticus 27:30, Deuteronomy 12:6-7, Psalm 24:1

- start with a baseline tithe (10%)
- supplement your tithe with free will offerings and special gifts
- remember who the true owner is (we're stewards)

Giving—To whom?

Numbers 18:21, Deuteronomy 14:28-29

- in support of your local priesthood (your local church)
- in support of the poor, the widows, the orphans, the least of these
- in support of the missionary mandate

Malachi 3:7-10

⁷...Return to me, and I will return to you," says the LORD Almighty. "But you ask, 'How are we to return?'⁸ "Will a man rob God? Yet you rob me. "But you ask, 'How do we rob you?' "In tithes and offerings.⁹ You are under a curse—the whole nation of you—because you are robbing me.¹⁰ Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this," says the LORD Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it."

Malachi 3 challenge = 10% for the next 90 days, see what God does

"If you're still living in the world of addition and subtraction, the tithe is difficult to give because it feels like you're subtracting 10 percent from your income. But once you graduate to multiplication, you realize that God can do more with 90 percent than you can do with 100 percent. Why? Because when you add God into the equation of your finances, it changes the game." – Mark Batterson