

Saturday Celebration (2-4-06)

"Preparing for the Next Chapter" (Pt. 2)

"The Malachi Challenge - Pt. 2"

TITHING REALITIES

- **in the Body of Christ**

“The average church donor in America contributed a mean of \$649 to churches in 2000. Nearly one-quarter of all born-again Christians (23%) gave no money to a church in 2000. 12% of born again Christians tithed their income to churches in 2000. Statistics from John Piper’s message “Don’t Be Anxious Lay up Treasures in Heaven”

“ [Reported in a 1994 “Christianity Today” article] “Our people 45 years old and younger have grown up mesmerized by materialism. There’s tremendous pressure on families to spend, spend, and spend.” Then he adds, “I’ve heard that the generation that believed in the tradition of tithing is in three places: retirement homes, nursing homes, or cemeteries.” In other words most baby boomers and baby busters haven’t embraced tithing. John Piper, “Toward the Tithe and Beyond”

- @ LCC

This Touches Two Realities

(1) Practical/Functional Reality

... *Will we be able to Fulfill God's Agenda if we don't do things God's Way?* (Prayer & Fasting, Giving, Evangelism, etc.)

(2) Heart Affection Reality

“What you do with every cent says something about your view of God and what he means to you. And what your values are in this age. And what you think your few years on earth should be spent for. John Piper, “Toward the Tithe and Beyond”

Mal 1:6-14 Malachi’s Concern in this passage is over the “WORTH” of God declared in their giving

“But God is wise and knows us deeply. He knows that there is something wrong with the husband who answers his wife’s complaint that he doesn’t give her any time by saying, “What do you mean, I don’t give you my time? ALL my time is yours. I work all day long for you and the children.” That has a very hollow ring to it if he doesn’t give her any “especially time.” Giving her some evenings together and some dates does not deny that all his time is for her, it proves it. This is why God declares one day in seven especially God’s. They are all his, and making one special proves it. And this is the way it is with our money and God. Giving God a tenth of our income does not deny that all our money is God’s, it proves that we believe it. Tithing is like a constant offering of the first fruits of the whole thing. The tenth is yours, O, Lord, in a special way, because all of it is yours in an ordinary way. John Piper. “Toward the Tithe and Beyond”

Mal 3:9-12

- In this passage Malachi Links their LIFE EXPERIENCE to How They are Relating to God Financially

THE CURSES FROM HOW WE HANDLE MONEY Mal 3:9

"CURSE" – can refer to Actions or Consequences that God Intervenes and Brings in Our Lives, or Consequences that are Related to Our REAPING What We've SOWN

- ***The Curse of Earth-bound Affections ...***

Matt 6:19-21 Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. 20 "But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves do not break in or steal; 21 for where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

1Tim 6:6-10 ... The Danger of Wandering from the Faith

– "**PANGS**" = NT:3601 ***a state of severe emotional anxiety and distress*** (from Greek-English Lexicon) NT:3601 ***consuming grief***; (from Thayer's Greek Lexicon)

- Do you have a Christianity that is INEFFECTIVE or PASSIONLESS?
- Do you have an ANGER or FRUSTRATION problem?
- Do you struggle with JEALOUSY or DISCONTENT or COMPLAINING?
- ... ***Have You Considered Your Illness May Be a FINANCIAL ILLNESS?***
- ***brought on by Financial Cravings***

- ***The Curse of Fear & Anxiety ... Lk 12:22-23, 29-33***

The CURE for Financial Anxiety v. 33 ... "sell & GIVE"

- ***The Curse of Greed – Running Hard but Never Satisfied ...***

Hag 1:2-6 "Busy but Barren" "NEVER ENOUGH!"

- ***The Curse of Stinginess ...***

2 Cor 9:6-12 Now this I say, he who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. 7 Each one must do just as he has purposed in his heart, not grudgingly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

Prov 11:24 There is one who scatters, and yet increases all the more, And there is one who withholds what is justly due, and yet it results only in want.

- ***The Curse of "Unblessed Methods" ... their "Partial Tithe Practice" in Mal 3***
– God Brings Discipline, Judgement, and Opposition on "Contrary Methods" that don't value and embrace His Wisdom and Revelation ... **Mal 1:9, 14**

Lev 26:14-20 But if you do not obey Me and do not carry out all these commandments, 15 if, instead, you reject My statutes, and if your soul abhors My ordinances so as not to carry out all My commandments, and so break My covenant, 16 I, in turn, will do this to

you: I will appoint over you a sudden terror, consumption and fever that will waste away the eyes and cause the soul to pine away; also, you will sow your seed uselessly, for your enemies will eat it up. 17 I will set My face against you so that you will be struck down before your enemies; and those who hate you will rule over you, and you will flee when no one is pursuing you. 18 If also after these things you do not obey Me, then I will punish you seven times more for your sins. 19 I will also break down your pride of power; I will also make your sky like iron and your earth like bronze.

Hag 1:7-11

— *Why Does One Not Pay a Tithe or Contribute to the Kingdom's Furtherance*—

HOW TO "PUT GOD TO THE TEST" Mal 3:10

THE BLESSINGS FROM HOW WE HANDLE MONEY

Prov 3:9-10 Honor the LORD from your wealth, and from the first of all your produce; 10 So your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will overflow with new wine.

- *The Blessing of Guaranteeing Your Needs Will Be Met*

Mal 3:10

Phil 4:15-19 You yourselves also know, Philippians, that at the first preaching of the gospel, after I left Macedonia, no church shared with me in the matter of giving and receiving but you alone; 16 for even in Thessalonica you sent a gift more than once for my needs. 17 Not that I seek the gift itself, but I seek for the profit which increases to your account. 18 But I have received everything in full and have an abundance; I am amply supplied, having received from Epaphroditus what you have sent, a fragrant aroma, an acceptable sacrifice, well-pleasing to God. 19 And my God will supply all your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus.

- *The Blessing of Abundance*

2 Cor 9:6-12 Now this I say, he who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. 7 Each one must do just as he has purposed in his heart, not grudgingly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. 8 And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that always having all sufficiency in everything, you may have an abundance for every good deed;

Luke 6:38 "Give, and it will be given to you. They will pour into your lap a good measure -- pressed down, shaken together, and running over. For by your standard of measure it will be measured to you in return."

- **The Blessing of Reaping More Than Money**

Ps 41:1-3 How blessed is he who considers the helpless; The LORD will deliver him in a day of trouble.
2 The LORD will protect him and keep him alive, And he shall be called blessed upon the earth;
And do not give him over to the desire of his enemies. 3 The LORD will sustain him upon his
sickbed; In his illness, You restore him to health.

2 Cor 9:10-12 Now He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your
seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness; 11 you will be enriched in everything
for all liberality, which through us is producing thanksgiving to God. 12 For the ministry of this
service is not only fully supplying the needs of the saints, but is also overflowing through many
thanksgivings to God.

Gal 6:6-8 The one who is taught the word is to share all good things with the one who teaches him. 7 Do
not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, this he will also reap. 8 For the one
who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will
from the Spirit reap eternal life.

- "Sowing to his own flesh & Reaping" — By Not Sharing with the One Who Teaches
- "Sowing to the Spirit & Reaping" — by Giving to the One Who Teaches