

Saturday Celebration (2-25-06)

Preparing for the Next Chapter (Pt. 5)

**"The Malachi Challenge" Pt. 3 - The Simplicity of Biblical Giving**

**"A Healthy and Biblical Giving Practice will involve a heart of faith and joy that releases money from our lives in two categories — Tithes & Offerings "**

**TITHE** ("tenth") .... The regular pattern of giving that turns my dependency, trust, and praise upward (a Tribute due the King of the Universe)

- **Regular Giving** – "as the Lord prospers you"

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.

- **Significant Giving**

"Honor" signifies to esteem a person as having value and to declare him such to give him social weight or prominence. Here that declaration is made not in a speech act but in the concrete act of presenting tribute to him from your wealth. **Bruce Waltke**, "The Book of Proverbs" [NICOT], p. 247

**OFFERINGS** .... Giving beyond the Tithe

Mal 3:8 "Will a man rob God? Yet you are robbing Me! But you say, 'How have we robbed You?' In tithes and offerings.

Pr 3:9 ... calls on us to honor the Lord from two different (but related) categories: (1) Your Wealth and (2) Your Produce (income)

**"WEALTH"**

- What is Wealth? ...
- Where Does Wealth Come From? ... **Deut 8:18**

**WISE WORDS TO THE WEALTHY...**

**NOTE: So much of Biblical Giving Principles are a TWO-EDGED PRINCIPLES —**

**(1) PARTICIPATIVE** (the joy of furthering Kingdom Interests) and

**(2) PROTECTIVE** ... There is an association of Wealth with Forgetting God.

– The TITHE ... protects me from Regular Provisional Temptations

– OFFERINGS ... protect me from the Wealth in My Life

**Deut 6:10-12 ... 8:11-19**

**1Tim 6:9-10, 17-19**

- **What Would Be God's Purpose in Providing Wealth?**

**Ex 35:4-29**

**1Chr 29:1-16**

***Offerings are Not Tithes. Offerings are Special Event/Occasional moments of giving. They represent special opportunities for us to extend our lives into various opportunities to extend the glory of God upon the earth.***

Exodus (offering for tabernacle) — The Tabernacle was built by offerings

1Chr 29 (offering for the temple)

Hag 1 (restoration of the temple)

2Co 8:1-7, 9:1-7 (offering for the poor)

## **A CLEAR BIBLICAL EXAMPLE TO FOLLOW**

God Has Already Spelled Out a System .... Why Do It Another Way?      Given the Deceitfulness of the human heart I'd be suspect.

***"Biblical Giving for a Christian involves both tithes and offerings (first fruit and wealth), and in doing so all Scriptural teaching from Genesis to Revelation is honored and coherent."***

**UNBIBLICAL GIVING PRACTICES** (some of these are simply not supportable by Scripture, others are at Odds with the Scriptures)

- ***Not Giving***
- ***Giving with No Biblical Basis***
- ***Giving at the End of the Month***
- ***Giving Only When I Find a Worthy Cause***
- ***Tithing Based on Your Analysis of Church Finances***
- ***Not Tithing Because the Preacher Offended You***
- ***Opposing the Tithe as Under the Law While Giving Less Than a Tithe Under Grace***

... To Find the God of Grace Worthy of LESS than "the God of Law" is an amazing problem. When we as New Testament believers, living in a far more affluent society than ancient Israel, give only a fraction of that given by the poorest Old Testament believers, we surely must reevaluate our concept of "grace giving". And when you consider that we have the indwelling Spirit of God and they didn't, the contrast becomes even more glaring. **Randy Alcorn**, "Money, Possessions, and Eternity", p. 182

- ***Substituting Serving for Giving*** (particularly TITHING)