

THE CHURCH WHAT IS IT?
DOES IT MATTER?
SHOULD YOU CARE?

The Generous Church



Malachi 3:7-12



Ever since the time of your forefathers you have turned away from my decrees and have not kept them. Return to me, and I will return to you,” says the LORD Almighty.

“But you ask, ‘How are we to return?’

“Will a man rob God? Yet you rob me.”

“But you ask, ‘How do we rob you?’

“In tithes and offerings. You are under a curse—the whole nation of you—because you are robbing me. 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. I will prevent pests from devouring your crops, and the vines in your fields will not cast their fruit,” says the LORD Almighty. “Then all the nations will call you blessed, for yours will be a delightful land,” says the LORD Almighty.

Malachi 3:7-12



2 Angles on “The Tithe”

- What were the issues Malachi addressed in his day?
- What should we think about tithing in the 21st century?



What's Going on Here?

- God is still trying to restore his relationship with his chosen people (see Malachi 1:2)



What's Going on Here?

- God is still trying to restore his relationship with his chosen people
- God claims he is being “robbed” of Tithes & Offerings
 - 10% for Levites (Lev. 27:30)
 - 10% for Festivals (Deut. 14:22ff)
 - 10% every 3rd year for the poor (Deut 14:28)



What's Going on Here?

- God is still trying to restore his relationship with his chosen people
- God claims he is being “robbed” of Tithes & Offerings
- God challenges the people to :
 - Bring him the full tithe
 - Test him to see if he doesn't bless them in return



21st Century Tithing Questions

QUESTION:

How could God have the audacity to accuse people of robbing HIM when it's THEIR money?



21st Century Tithing Questions

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How could God have the audacity to accuse people of robbing HIM when it's THEIR money?

ANSWER:

Because technically (*realistically!*) everything is God's.



21st Century Tithing Questions

QUESTION:

HOW MUCH does God want me to give?



21st Century Tithing Questions

QUESTION:

HOW MUCH does God want me to give?

BETTER QUESTION:

HOW does God want me to Give?



How does God want me to give?

ANSWER:

- Regularly



How does God want me to give?

ANSWER:

- Regularly
- Proportionately



How does God want me to give?

ANSWER:

- Regularly
- Proportionately
- Enthusiastically



How does God want me to give?

ANSWER:

- Regularly
- Proportionately
- Enthusiastically
- Sacrificially



How does God want me to give?

ANSWER:

- Regularly
- Proportionately
- Enthusiastically
- Sacrificially
- Generously



Your very giving proves the reality of your faith, and that means that men thank God that you practise the Gospel that you profess to believe in...

2 Cor. 9:13 (Phillips)



We must learn anew that dealing with money is a burning center of faith.... The obedience of disciples must profoundly alter our dealing with our own money, because money rules the world and discipleship to Jesus is a protest of love against this government.”

Ulrich Luz



21st Century Tithing Questions

QUESTION:

Does it pay to give?



21st Century Tithing Questions

QUESTION:

Does it pay to give?

ANSWER:

No...Yes...Absolutely Yes.



Where do we go from here?

ASSESS your giving

- Check your attitude. Are you *enthusiastic* and *generous*?
- Check the amount. Is it *sacrificial* and *proportional*?

PRAY: “God, open my heart so I can open my hands”

ACT: Follow through on what God says.

