

You, God, and Money!!

Malachi 3:8-10

Illustration: Kid who went to Sunday School with his Grandmother.

God IS interested in your money! He is interested in the way you secure it/spend it/save it/and share it!! Some people will say, "Don't talk about money preacher, talk about something spiritual!" That kind of statement shows a lack of Biblical knowledge, and spiritual insight. Nothing is more spiritual than how you handle your money. It is the supreme test of where our heart is.

- Adrian Rogers once said: "A faith that hasn't reached your wallet, probably hasn't reached your heart."
- Money is something that we use every day, our very survival depends on it. How can Jesus Christ be Lord, and not be Lord over our money?
 - I have heard people say, "I don't like it when the preacher talks about money." I can tell you this; you sure wouldn't like the teachings of Jesus then either. He gave 36 parables, and 16 of them had to do with our attitude towards money.
 - 1 out of every 10 verses in the New Testament deals with our attitudes towards money. Let me put it to you this way: There are 500 verses about faith/ 500 on prayer and over 2,000 verses on the issue of your money.

- We see the stories about the widows 2 mites and the rich young ruler in the Bible. Why would Jesus include these stories if he weren't interested in money?
- So who else is interested in your money? Satan....It is his desire you keep you under a curse, or under bondage!!! The best way for him to do that is to affect your attitude toward money in a negative way.
- The word "Tithe" means a tenth. God gave us a method of giving which is completely fair to all who will obey it, no matter what you make.
Illustration: The man who made too much money to tithe.
- I can't make sure everyone is walking in complete obedience, but I can make sure and preach it just like God said it. Hey, I don't work on commission!!
 - Now, usually there are about three types of people in church:
 1. It's all mine group. This group says, I worked for it, I deserve it, and can do what I want to with it. If I feel like giving Then I will.
 2. The tithe belongs to God and the rest belongs to me group: They say, I'll give the tithe and I get to decide what I do with the rest of it.
 3. It all belongs to God group: I return to Him what He has commanded and He entrusts me with the rest of His money.
- 2 Corinthians 9:7 says, "God loves a cheerful giver!" Tithing is a privilege not a burden.

- But tithing is Old Testament pastor. I want you to remember the New Testament requires more than the old: example: If you hate your brother you have committed murder, If you look at a woman in lust you have committed adultery.
- Lets look at Matthew 23:23 Its all in your attitude!!!Be a joyful giver!
- So where do we give our tithe? Do we give it to the Red Cross, Salvation Army, TV ministries? Lets look at Malachi 3:10 again. "Bring in the entire tithe into the storehouse." Where is the storehouse? It's the church that you attend.
- Come together on the Lord's Day with the Lords people to study God's Word, and we ought to bring with us God's tithe.
- Also tithe where you get fed. Don't eat and run. You wouldn't do that at your mother's house.
- 3:10 God says to "prove me" that means put His to the test. Normally we aren't supposed to do that, but in this case. He says put me to the test.....see if I won't bless you for it.... I will pass this test!!! See if I am able to take the other 90% and make it go even farther than 100% ever could!!
- Look at vs. 11 " I will prevent pests from devouring your crops." God said put me first and I will rebuke these enemies in your finances.
- Now some of you are saying, " My finances are fine and I'm not tithing, don't forget, Satan can reward disobedience too!!
- In Africa there is a certain monkey that is considered a delicacy to eat. They have a proven method to catch these monkeys. They had rather commit monkeycide than to drop the food.

- There are undoubtedly people here today who are committing financial suicide, because they won't let go of the tithe! Who is in charge of your finances? IF your answer isn't God then change that today by returning the tithe today.
- IF you've never been saved before, all He wants is you!! He gave everything for you!!!