

“Tithing” Malachi 3:8-12

I. Robbing God –

⁸ **“Will a man rob God? Yet you have robbed Me! But you say, ‘In what way have we robbed You?’ In tithes and offerings. ⁹ You are cursed with a curse, For you have robbed Me, Even this whole nation. Malachi 3:8–9 (NKJV)**

- 1. The big question is, “Is tithing still required in the New Testament?” Especially of Gentiles?*
- 2. Another question, “Are we robbing God if we do not tithe?”*
- 3. Plus, a third question, some might be asking, “What is tithing?” Answering the THIRD question first: tithing is giving 10% to God. Today, it would mean giving 10% to the church.*

Answering the first two questions:

A. It is hard to say whether God required tithes from the Gentile churches!

B. It seems to me, Paul in 2 Corinthians left it totally up to the Corinthians, what amount they gave - ⁷ So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver. 2 Corinthians 9:7 (NKJV)

C. The requirement was to GIVE “cheerfully” according to the purpose of your heart, not of necessity I believe means, NOT BECAUSE SOMEONE is FORCING YOU!

D. This is key to understanding the extreme Acts 2 giving – ⁴⁴ Now all who believed were together, and had all things in common, ⁴⁵ and sold their possessions and goods, and divided them among all, as anyone had need. Acts 2:44–45 (NKJV)

- People did this extreme giving and sharing voluntarily.*
- Communists and Socialists claim these verses back their ungodly ways, NO WAY, these take money by force or other government coercion and people suffer while rulers grow rich.*

E. What makes it difficult is Scripture makes it plain that Old Testament Scripture still applies to us today

– ¹⁶ All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, ¹⁷ that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work. 2 Timothy 3:16–17 (NKJV)

4. How do we apply tithing to today? Most say not as a strict requirement, but definitely as a guideline for giving! The idea is, if you have the money and are NOT GIVING to God, to the advancement of His kingdom, and cheerfully, you are hurting yourself –

³³ But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you. Matthew 6:33 (NKJV)

So, a tithe 10% is not necessarily required, but recommended? Yes, probably, true, Amen!

II. Rewarded by God -

¹⁰ Bring all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be food in My house, And try Me now in this,” Says the LORD of hosts, “If I will not open for you the windows of heaven and pour out for you *such* blessing That *there will not be room enough to receive it.* ¹¹ “And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, So that he will not destroy the fruit of your ground, Nor shall the vine fail to bear fruit for you in the field,” Says the LORD of hosts; ¹² And all nations will call you blessed, For you will be a delightful land,” Says the LORD of hosts. Malachi 3:10–12 (NKJV)

1. *What we have in Malachi 3:10-12 are strong promises of God connected to tithing.*

2. *I will tell you THIS:*

A. *The requirement of tithing may be GONE!*

B. *THE REWARD for TITHING is alive and well!*

3. *What we have in Malachi 3:10-12 are promises of God!¹*

Bring all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be food in My house, And try Me now in this,” Says the LORD of hosts, “If I will not open for you the windows of heaven and pour out for you *such* blessing That *there will not be room enough to receive it.* Malachi 3:10

A. *These are promises of PROSPERITY & ABUNDANCE! You might ask, Pastor, are you preaching the Health, Wealth and Prosperity Gospel? NO!*

The health, wealth and prosperity gospel prioritizes, and values material things over God and spiritual blessings, we are to Seek First God’s Kingdom –

³³ **But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you. Matthew 6:33 (NKJV)**

We are to SERVE God, not mammon or money –

²⁴ **“No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon. Matthew 6:24 (NKJV)**

B. *We tithe because we trust God. We tithe because we are serving God and believing His PROMISES, which continue today –*

¹⁹ For the Son of God, Jesus Christ, who was preached among you by us—by me, Silvanus, and Timothy—was not Yes and No, but in Him was Yes. ²⁰ For all the promises of God in Him are Yes, and in Him Amen, to the glory of God through us. 2 Corinthians 1:19–20 (NKJV)

C. *The promised rewards for GIVING mentioned in Malachi 3:10-12 are echoed in the New Testament even if God’s requirement of tithing is not –*

I quoted 2 Corinthians 9:7 before, consider what is said after it -

⁷ So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver.

⁸ And God is able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all things, may have an abundance for every good work. ⁹ As it is written: “He has dispersed abroad, He has given to the poor; His righteousness endures forever.”

¹⁰ Now may He who supplies seed to the sower, and bread for food, supply and multiply the seed you have sown and increase the fruits of your righteousness, ¹¹ while you are enriched in everything for all liberality, which causes thanksgiving through us to God. ¹² For the administration of this service not only supplies the needs of

the saints, but also is abounding through many thanksgivings to God, ¹³ while, through the proof of this ministry, they glorify God for the obedience of your confession to the gospel of Christ, and for *your* liberal sharing with them and all *men*, ¹⁵ Thanks *be* to God for His indescribable gift! 2 Corinthians 9:7–15 (NKJV)

- *Paul is telling the Corinthians, as they GIVE, they will GET!*
- *So, they will be enabled to do more good works – 2 Corinthians 9:8*
- *In Malachi 3:11 a devourer is rebuked, a devourer can be anything from locusts eating crops, to government locusts (politicians) causing inflation by printing money, these are rebuked when God's people tithe, God is in control!*
- *In 2 Corinthians 9:11 Paul uses the God inspired words “while you are enriched in everything...”*

Everything is a broad, general, non-specific word. In the Greek it is $\pi\alpha\varsigma$ pas meaning all, every

For us meaning both material & spiritual blessings and ALL of THEM --- what the passage(s) are saying is GIVE and God will outgive you!

When you give to saints who cannot give back, what do you gain? 1. God's grace! 2. These people will pray for you - ¹⁴ and by their prayer for you, who long for you because of the exceeding grace of God in you.

➤ *Remember God's Ultimate Gift -*

⁵ Thanks *be* to God for His indescribable gift! 2 Corinthians 9:15 (NKJV)

This is obviously a reference to Jesus Christ, God's Son Whom He gave for our salvation –

¹⁶ For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. John 3:16 (NKJV)

With Christ come every spiritual blessing –

³ Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly *places* in Christ, ⁴ just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love, ⁵ having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will, ⁶ to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He made us accepted in the Beloved.

⁷ In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace ⁸ which He made to abound toward us in all wisdom and prudence, ⁹ having made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His good pleasure which He purposed in Himself, ¹⁰ that in the dispensation of the fullness of the times He might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven and which are on earth—in Him. ¹¹ In Him also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestined according to the purpose of Him who works all things according to the counsel of His will, ¹² that we who first trusted in Christ should be to the praise of His glory.

¹³ In Him you also *trusted*, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, ¹⁴ who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory.

¹⁵ Therefore I also, after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints, ¹⁶ do not cease to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers: ¹⁷ that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him, ¹⁸ the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, ¹⁹ and what *is* the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power ²⁰ which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated *Him* at His right hand in the heavenly *places*, ²¹ far above all principality and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come.

²² And He put all *things* under His feet, and gave Him *to be* head over all *things* to the church, ²³ which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all. Ephesians 1:3–23 (NKJV)

1. *Being chosen - :4*
2. *Without blame - :4*
3. *In His love -:4*
4. *Predestined to adoption as sons (children of God) -:5*
5. *Being accepted-:6*
6. *Redemption through His blood -:7*
7. *Forgiveness according to the riches of His grace -:7*
8. *Abounding to us in wisdom & prudence - :8*
9. *Knowledge of His will - :9*
10. *Predestined so we will be to the praise of His glory -:11-12*
11. *Saved, sealed with God's Holy Spirit of promise -:13*
12. *Guaranteed an inheritance in heaven - :14*
13. *Paul prayed for the Ephesians that they might know these things, meaning really realize their extreme VALUE, these spiritual blessings are NOT boobie prizes -:15-23*

Yet, with "Giving" we get material blessings as well –

In Philippians 4 Paul is writing about receiving a material gift from the Philippians, but he knows God will provide for THEM -

¹⁹ And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus. Philippians 4:19 (NKJV)

III. Our membership vows do not require a tithe –

Vow # 4 Do you promise to support the church in its worship and work to the best of your ability?

We do not require non-members to give at all. Members have promised, vowed to give to the best of their ability, not necessarily a tithe.

In a bad economy, giving a tithe can be a hard thing! God knows what the best of your ability is.

Robbing God is robbing yourself ...

IV. God says, "try Me"

And try Me now in this now ...

- ¹⁰ **Bring all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be food in My house, And try Me now in this," Says the LORD of hosts, "If I will not open for you the windows of heaven and pour out for you *such* blessing That *there will not be room enough to receive it.* ¹¹ "And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, So that he will not destroy the fruit of your ground, Nor shall the vine fail to bear fruit for you in the field," Says the LORD of hosts; ¹² And all nations will call you blessed, For you will be a delightful land," Says the LORD of hosts. Malachi 3:10–12 (NKJV)**

Is God lying?