

**“Test Me Now”
Malachi 3:7-12
Sunday July 26, 2009**

When is it Wrong to Preach on Money?

1. It is wrong to preach on money in order to manipulate people by way of emotions:
2. It is wrong to preach on money to manipulate people by way of pressure:
3. It is wrong to preach on money in order to achieve a goal that is both worldly and selfish:
4. It is wrong for a ministry to preach on money that is not accountable:

Eph 4:11

Malachi - means “My messenger”

Note the described conditions during Malachi’s Ministry:

1. Poor crops and a faltering economy (Mal. 3:11)
2. God’s people involved with intermarriage with heathens (Mal. 2:11)
3. Defilement of the priesthood (Mal. 1:6)
4. Oppression of the poor (Mal. 3:5)
5. Lack of support for the temple (Mal. 3:8-10)
6. A general disdain of religion (Mal. 2:13)

Why are marriages, families, and churches in such financial hardships?

1. People do not know what the Bible has to say about money.
2. Some have been taught Biblical giving but have forgotten what the Bible says.
3. Some may know what the Bible says but allow fear to control them, and are not trusting God that He will take care of them if they obey what He says.

Malachi's Theme – "Honoring the name of God by living godly lives"

1. Verses 7-8 – Robbing God

2. Verses 9-11 – Robbing Yourself

3. Verse 12 – Robbing Others

1. Verses 7-8 – Robbing God:

My statutes, "commandment, decree, law, measure, ordinance, task"

James 4:8-10

Mal 3:8

Foundational Truths About Resources:

1. We are commanded to give in order to break the sinful, self-centered nature of our hearts: Eph 4:28

Acts 20:35

2. We are blessed more through our giving than our receiving:
Mal. 3:7-12

3. All I have has come to me from God: (James 1:17)

4. All I have belongs to God; I am a steward of God: (1 Cor 4:1)

5. I need to be content with what God has entrusted to me. (Phil 4:11)

In Tithes – "The word "tithe" comes from a Hebrew word that means "ten" A tithe is 10 percent of one's grain, fruit, animals, or money."

Malachi 3:10 "Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse,

Abraham - gave tithes to Melchizedek, acknowledging that Melchizedek was the representative of the Most High God (Gen. 14:20; Heb. 7).

Jacob - vowed to God that he would tithe (Gen. 28:22)

and offerings – This is giving above our tithes.

2. Verses 9-11 – Robbing Yourself:

Whenever we rob God, we always rob ourselves. "You are cursed with a curse, for you are robbing Me."

Haggai 1:5-6

Malachi 3:10

Don't weigh the options, examine the alternatives; we don't negotiate the terms! We obey the Lord! We do what God says!

Luke 6:38

2 Cor 9:6-8

Malachi 3:11

3. Verse 12 – Robbing Others:

Application:

1. If teaching on giving is presented Biblically no Christian should ever have a bad attitude about it:
2. Giving is a lifestyle, It is not just a one week experience:
3. Tithing is an Old Testament teaching, surely the Christian of the New Testament through Grace not only starts there but because of grace experiences liberation in their giving:
4. I need to ask myself am I giving God what is rightfully His? Are there always the finances for me and not for God?
5. Come For Prayer: loss of job, a cut back on hours, let others pray with you to see God intervene.
6. We Are Making Available to the Congregation "The Crown Financial Ministry".