

“A Biblical Exposition on the Subject of Tithing”

(Sunday Morning August 16th, 2026)

Passage: Malachi 3:7-12

O.S. I Have Seen Several Facebook Posts Recently That Have Vehemently Attacked the Biblical Standard of Tithing

- > **They Begin by Claiming That Tithing is Not Biblical; and Then, They Accuse Church Leaders of Being Filled With Greed and Using This to Exploit the Poor**
- > **They Usually Begin With a Story About Some Poor Single Mom Who Cannot Even Afford to Pay Her Bills**
- > **But Nevertheless, Her Greedy Pastor Has the Audacity to Tell Her That She Should be Giving Ten Percent of Her Income to Her Local Church**
- > **And of Course, These Guys Receive Hundreds of Cheers From Like Minded People and Thousands Upon Thousands of Thumbs, and Hearts, and Smiling Emogis**
- > **So, Let Me Begin This Morning by Making a Really Radical Statement, and This is It: These Folks are Actually Doing These Single Moms More Harm Than Good**

Q.n = Pastor, are You Serious?

Ans = I'm Absolutely Serious

- > **For You See, to Begin With 10% is a Fair Amount; if Someone Only Receives \$2000 Per Month, Their Tithe Would be \$200 for That Month**
- > **On the Other Hand, if Someone Receive \$15,000 Per Month, Their Tithe Would be \$1,500 for That Month**
- > **In Addition to This, God is Absolutely Sovereign; and Because God is Absolutely Sovereign, He Owns Everything**
- > **In *Haggai 2:8*, God Spoke Through the Prophet and Said, “*The silver is Mine and the gold is Mine,' declares the LORD of hosts.*”**
- > **And the Scriptures Also Say That It is the Lord Who Gives Us the Ability to Earn, and to Acquire, and to Accumulate Wealth**
- > **“*But you shall remember the LORD your God,...*” Moses Said in *Deut 8:18*, “*...for it is He who is giving you power to make wealth*”**

St = Now, for Those Who Might Not Know, the Word “*Tithe*” Literally Means “*Tenth*,” and the Bible Says That We Should Give 10% of Our Income to Our Local Church

- > A 5% “*Tithe*,” Therefore, is an Oxymoron, Because the Word “*Tithe*” Literally Means “*Tenth*”
- > Of Course, There are Always Some Who Try to Say That “*The Tithe*” Was Only a Part of the Old Testament Law; and Therefore, It is no Longer Valid Today
- > But I am of the Opinion That They are Wrong for the Following Three Reasons
 - a. First, the Bible Teaches Us That “*The Tithe*” Predates the Law of God
 - > The Concept of “*The Tithe*” First Appears in *Genesis 14:20* When Abraham Gave Melchizedek, Who BTW Was an Old Testament Type or Symbol of Christ, One Tenth of the Spoils After He Defeated Five Kings
 - > And the Tithe is Mentioned Again by Jacob in *Genesis 28:22* (Before the Law)
 - b. Second, the Bible Teaches That the Tithe Became a Part of the Law of God (*Leviticus 27:30*)
 - > Now, We are Under Grace and Not Under the Law, But the Law of God is Still Helpful Because It Reveals to Us What God’s Standards Are
 - c. Third, and Most Important of All, Jesus Affirmed Tithing in the N.T.
 - > In *Matthew 23:23*, Jesus Said This; He Said, “*Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you tithe mint and dill and cummin, and have neglected the weightier provisions of the law: justice and mercy and faithfulness;* (And Now, Listen Carefully to This) **but these are the things you should have done without neglecting the others”**
 - > And So, Since Abraham COMMENCED the Tithe, and Jacob CONTINUED the Tithe, and Moses COMMANDED the Tithe, and Jesus COMMENDED the Tithe, Who am I to CANCEL the Tithe?
 - > None of Us Should Try to Cancel the Tithe, Because It is a Biblical Standard for Stewardship That Predates the Law of God

T.S. The Tithe is What This Passage of Scripture is All About; and So, With This in Mind, I Have Divided This Sermon Into Three Parts

I. There Was a Problem That Was Obvious

vs 8-9 (*Read*)

1) The Proof

- > I Want You to See That the Failure of These People to Tithe Was Only Symptomatic of a Much More Serious Problem
- > In Fact, Malachi's Primary Emphasis Was Not on Tithing; It Was on Their Overall Immature Spiritual Condition, and Their Need for Personal and Corporate Revival

vs 7 (Read)

- > Malachi Said to These People, in Essence, *"You are not spiritually right with God,"* and They Had the Audacity to Question His Prophetic Assessment

- > They Said, in Essence, *"Show us how we are not spiritually right with God"*

Q.n = Now, in All Fairness, How Can Anyone Prove Something Like That?

Ans = They Can Only Prove It by Finding Something That is Tangible

- > And That is Why God Told Malachi to Bring Up the Subject of Tithing

- > For You See, a Person's Financial Stewardship is Something That is Obvious; You Either Give God Your Tithe or You Don't

- > And if You Don't, That Simply Reveals That You Have a Deeper Spiritual Problem

- > Which is Why Jesus Said This in *Matthew 6:21*, He Said, *"for where your treasure is, there your heart will be also"*

- > And Listen, if You Were to Allow Me to Examine Your Checkbook for One Full Year, I Could Easily Tell You Exactly What Your Priorities in Life Are

- > And if God is Really First in Your Life, Your Financial Stewardship Will Reveal That

- > That is Why Jesus Went on to Say This in *Matthew 6:33*; He Said, *"But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you"* (Do You See the Connection?- Elaborate – All These Things = Your Needs – Food, Clothing, Shelter)

- > And You Can't Say That You're Seeking First His Kingdom if You're Not Tithing

T.S. 1) The Proof

2) The Person

- > I Want You to Notice the Personal Pronouns Here; God Says YOU Have Robbed ME

- > Now, That is What I Call a Harsh Statement; in Fact, I Honestly Wish That There Was Some Way That I Could Soften That Statement for You, But I Can't

a. The Bible Says, That When We Don't Tithe, We Rob God

-> For You See, There are Only Two Ways That I Know of That a Person Can Steal

-> A Person Can Steal by Taking Something That Belongs to Someone Else or They Can Steal by Refusing to Give Something to Someone That They Owe to Them

-> And When a Person Fails to Tithe, They Steal From God in Both of Those Ways

i. This is True, First, Because God is the Giver of All Things

-> King David, for Example, Said This in *1 Chron 29:14*; He Said, "*But who am I and who are my people that we should be able to offer as generously as this? (Listen) For all things come from You, and from Your hand we have given You*"

Q.n = Have You Ever Thought About the Fact That Everything That We Ever Receive, Including Our Ability to Work and to Gain Wealth, Comes From God Anyway?

-> It's Like This; When My Children Were Younger, They Were Not Able to Work and Earn Money

-> And So, I Would Give Them Shopping Money so That They Could Buy a Christmas Gift for Each Member of Our Family

-> So, This Means, That for Many Years, I Actually Bought My Own Christmas Present (And That's What Our Giving to God is Like – We All Live From Hand to Mouth)

ii. This is True, Secondly, Because the Tithe Belongs to God Anyway

-> In *Lev 27:30*, the Bible Says That "...*(the) tithe... belongs to the Lord; it is holy to the Lord*" (NIV)

-> This is Why Malachi Said That a Person Who Does Not Tithe is Guilty of Robbing God; He's Guilty, Because the Tithe Belongs to the Lord

b. The Bible Says That, When We Don't Tithe, We Rob Others

-> I Receive My Income From This Church and This is Appropriate, Because the Bible Says This in *1 Timothy 5:18*; It Says "... *'YOU SHALL NOT MUZZLE THE OX WHILE HE IS THRESHING,' and (Listen to This) 'The laborer (That is the Preacher) is worthy of his wages.'*"

- > You See, I Receive My Salary From This Church, and the Bible Says That This is Appropriate
- > But I Obviously Can't Get Paid if There is No Money in the General Fund to Pay Me With, and This All Comes From What Our Church Members Give
- > And by the Way, the Prophet Malachi Indicted the Priests by Telling Them That They Were Struggling, Because They Weren't Teaching God's Word Correctly
- > If They Would Have Taught the People to Bring the Whole Tithe Into God's Storehouse, God Essentially Said That They Would Have Had Enough
- > But Since They Weren't Doing That, They Kept Receiving Less and Less Themselves
- > So, Based on That, I Can Say That God Wants Me to Preach on Tithing Once in a While; and if I Don't, the Consequences for Me Might Become Self-Evident
- > Moreover, Listen, What You Give Does More Than Pay My Salary, It Also Pays for This Facility, and Our Ability to Meet in This Facility (Ex. Electric Bill)
- > We Also Have to Pay for Outreach Activities, and Youth Activities, and We Buy Insurance, and We Have a Website, and We Buy Sunday School Literature, and We Give to Our Association and Our Convention
- > Let Tell You About Something Else That Wouldn't be Possible w/o Our Tithes
- > I'm Not Going to Have You Turn and Read This for the Sake of Time, But I Will Tell You Where It is Found; It is in *Deut 14:22-23,26*
- > In Those Verses, the Lord Tells Us That He Wants Us to Spend a Portion of Our Tithes on Whatever Kind of Food and Beverages We Desire, & He Wants Us to Come to the Tabernacle (Church) and to Celebrate His Presence Together
- > We do This at Thanksgiving Time, and We Can and Should do It at Other Times if We Have the Resources for It; We Call This a "*Bring a Friend Day*"

c. The Bible Says That, When We Don't Tithe, We Rob Ourselves

- > The Question is: "*Can a Man Rob God?*"; and the Implied Answer is "*No*"
- > God is All-Present and All-Knowing; and Therefore, It is Impossible for Any of Us to Rob God
- > And the Bible Tells Us in *Hebrews 4:13* That "...all things are open and laid bare to the eyes of Him with whom we have to do"

- > And So, No Christian is Ever Going to be Able to Get Away With It
- > If a Christian Does Not Learn to Tithe, All They Will Manage to Do, as We Will See in Just a Minute, is to Cheat Themselves Out of Receiving a Great Blessing

T.S. 1) The Proof
2) The Person

3) The Point

-> God Didn't Mince Words; He Got Very Specific; He Said *"In Tithes and Offerings"*

-> And So, Regardless of What You do With *"The Tithe,"* It Still Belongs to God

Ex = You Might be Wearing God's Tithe This Morning

Ex = You Might Have Driven God's Tithe to Church This Morning

Ex = You Might Have Used God's Tithe to Pay for a Vacation

-> And if You Did, You Can't Deny It, Because This is One Area of Your Spiritual Life That is Very Obvious

Pt = Listen, Failing to Tithe is Not the Only Way a Person Can Rob God, But This is One of the Most Obvious Ways That a Person Can Rob God

Ex = Some People Have Spent a Lifetime Robbing God of His Glory (Elaborate)

Ex = Some People Have Been Robbing God of Their Youth (Elaborate)

-> In *Eccl 12:1*, Solomon Said, *"Remember also your Creator in the days of your youth"*

Ex = Some People Have Been Stealing a Day From God Almost Every Week

-> *Exodus 20:8* Says *"Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy,"* But There are Many People Who Don't do That

II. There Was a Program That Was Outlined

1) The Place

a. There are Two Words Here That Indicate the Place for the Tithe

i. The First is the Word *"Storehouse"*

-> This Word Literally Referred to the *"Storehouse"* Inside of the Temple

ii. The Second is the Word “Bring”

- > This is a Very Common Verb in the Hebrew Old Testament; It Appears 2000 Times, and It Can be Translated “To Enter” or “To go Up”
 - > But One of It’s Most Common Uses Referred to Going Up to the Temple
 - > In *Deut 12:5-6*, the Bible Says This; It Says, “*5 But you shall seek the LORD at the place which the LORD your God will choose from all your tribes, to establish His name there for His dwelling, and there you shall come. 6 ‘There you shall bring your burnt offerings, your sacrifices, your tithes, (and) the contribution of your hand,...’*”
 - > The Place He is Referring to in Those Verses Again is the Temple, and It Seems Obvious to Me That the Temple Was the Old Testament Equivalent of the New Testament Church
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App: Of Course, There is Nothing Wrong With Giving to Other Organizations

- > I Hope You Give Some of Your Income to Parachurch Organizations
 - > I Hope You Help Support Ministries Such as: Our Benevolence Ministry, and World Hunger, and Operation Christmas Child and Samaritan’s Purse Etcetera
 - > But Our Support for Those Kinds of Ministries Should Represent Offerings Not Tithes
 - > The Tithe, as I Understand It, Should be Given to the Local Church That You and Your Family Have Chosen to Become Identified With and to Attend
-

b. We Should Bring the Tithe to This Place (the Local Church) as an Act of Worship

- > There are Many Churches That No Longer Take Up an Offering, Because They View This as Being Offensive
- > I Disagree With That, Because Giving an Offering is Part of Our Worship
- > Even a Superficial Observation of Worship in the Bible Indicates That No One Ever Came to God Empty Handed

Ex. The First Worship Service is Mentioned in *Gen 4* & Cain & Abel Brought Offerings

Ex. In *Gen 8:20*, Noah Gave Offerings to the Lord as Part of His Worship

Ex. The Wise Men Did Not Send Their Offerings of Gold, Frankincense and Myrrh

T.S. 1) The Place

2) The Proportion

- > God Says “*Bring ALL the Tithe*”, and the Emphasis is on the Word “ALL”; in Fact, This is Emphatic in the Hebrew; So, the Inflection Belongs There
- > You See, It Wasn’t That the People of Malachi’s Day Were Not Bringing Anything
- > The Problem is That the People of Malachi’s Day Were Only Bringing a Portion; They Were TIPPING and Not TITHING
- > In *Mal 1:13-14*, We are Told That They Were Bringing Lame Animals to God; They Weren’t Bringing God Their Best; They Were Bringing Him Their Leftovers
- > The Tithe, by the Way, Should be Given as Soon as You Receive Your Income, and That is Why Solomon Said This in *Proverbs 3:9-10*; He Said, “*9 Honor the Lord from your wealth and from the first of all your produce; 10 So your barns (Listen to This) will be filled with plenty and your vats will overflow with new wine*”

Q.n = Why Should We Set the Tithe Aside First?

Ans = So That It Will Not be Affected by Covetousness

- > A Lot of Christians do Just the Opposite; They Pay All of Their Bills; They Buy Whatever They Want; Then, They Give God Whatever is Left, and This is Why They Never Have Enough to Give the Lord His Tithe
- > The Key to This, I Can Tell You, is to Just Get in the Habit of Doing It

III. There Was a Promise That Was Offered vs 10-12 (Read)

1) The Proposition

- > God Says “*Test*” Me Now in This; and by the Way, This is the Only Place in the Bible Where God Tells Anyone to Test Him
- > God is Inviting You to Tithe and Then Examine the Results, and He is Giving Us a Promise or a Guarantee (Just Think About That)

III: Several Years Ago, I Read About a Pastor in Oklahoma Who Had Given Everyone in His Congregation an Interesting Offer

- > He Had Challenged Christians to Tithe for Three Months, and He Has Said, *“If You Tithe for Three Months and Come Up Short, I Will Personally Refund Your Tithes”*
 - > And So, I Want to Give That Same Promise to You This Morning; I Want to Encourage You to Test the Lord in This by Tithing for Three Months
 - > And After Three Months of Tithing, if You Come Up Short, I Want You to Know That I Will Find You the Phone Number of That Pastor in Oklahoma so That You Can Call Him Tell Him to Pay Up (Pause)
-

- > This is Right at the Heart of What the Prophet Malachi Was Trying to Explain to These People
 - > The Truth is That These People Did Not Have a FINANCIAL Problem; They Had a FAITH Problem (Repeat = Because That is a Key Takeaway)
 - > And in the Same Way, There are Many in the Church Today Who Would Say,

“I Believe That Jesus Lived a Perfect Life for Thirty Three Years; I Believe That Jesus Died on the Cross for My Sins and Rose Again on the Third Day, and I Believe That I Will Live Forever Because I Have Placed My Faith in Him”
 - > But Those Same People Who Have Enough Faith to Believe All of That Don’t Have Enough Faith to Give God a Dime on a Dollar
 - > And Let Me Say This Again, Having Less is Not a Legitimate Excuse for Not Tithing, Because the Tithe is a Percentage
 - > This Simply Involves Learning to Live on 90%; Tithing is a Learned Discipline
- 2) The Provision

a. It Has a Quality to It - *“I will open the windows of heaven”*

- > Those Malachi Was Addressing Lived in an Agrarian Society; So, Most of Them Probably Associated This Promise With God Sending Rain and Sunshine and Giving Them an Abundant Harvest
- > But Let Me Hasten to Add That This Includes More Than Monetary Blessings
- > *“The Windows of Heaven”* Could Refer to a Spiritual Blessing and a Spiritual Revival
- > In Fact, the Great Evangelist D. L. Moody Used to Say That the Most Common Obstacle to Revival is Nothing More Than Good Old Fashioned Greed
- > And There are Some Spiritual Experiences That a Christian Cannot Experience Until They Get Their Priorities Right in This Area (Did You Know That?)

-> That is Why Jesus Said This in *Luke 16:11*, Listen Carefully, He Said, *"Therefore if you have not been faithful in the use of unrighteous wealth, who will entrust the true riches to you?"* (Did You Catch That? Elaborate)

b. It Has a Quantity to It - *"and pour out for you a blessing until it overflows"*

-> God's Resources are Absolutely Beyond Limit; and Every Time We Find a Passage in the Bible Dealing With Stewardship, It's Really Not About Giving as Much as It is About Receiving

-> Which is Why Jesus, in *Luke 6:38*, for Example, Said This; He Said, *"Give, and it will be given to you. They will pour into your lap a good measure – pressed down, shaken together, and running over. For by your standard of measure it will be measured to you in return"*

-> I'm Not Going to Promise You That, if You Start Tithing, You are Going to Get Rich; But I Can Promise You, Based on God's Word, That, if You Will Start Tithing, You Will be Blessed (Can I Get a Witness This Morning?)

-> And Based on God's Word, I Can Also Say That You Can Expect to be Blessed in Like Kind, Because This is What We Learn From the Law of the Harvest

-> I Can Also Promise You, Based on This Passage, That It Won't be a Drizzle; It Will be a Downpour (Do You Want to be Blessed Like This? Then, Be Blessable)

T.S. 1) The Proposition

2) The Provision

3) The Protection - *"I will rebuke the devourer"*

-> In That Agrarian Society, This Referred to the Locust That Was Greatly Feared

Q.n = What Would This Mean for Us Today?

Ans = Any Number of Things Could Happen That Would Devour Our Wealth

(Elaborate = Our Clothes Might Wear Out Quicker, Car Repairs, Appliances, Lawsuit)

-> In *Haggai 1:6*, the Prophet Said, *"You have sown much, but harvest little; ...and he who earns, earns wages to put into a purse with holes"*

Pt = Maybe Our Wallets and Our Purses Wouldn't Leak so Badly if We Were Being More Faithful in Our Financial Stewardship

-> In Contrast to That, I Found a Great Verse in the Book of Isaiah This Week That Says *"When the enemy comes in like a flood, the Spirit of the Lord will lift up a standard against him."* (NKJV) (Isa 59:19)

-> **Anyone Who Has Been Through a Tropical Storm Should be Able to Appreciate That Verse of Scripture** (When the Calamity Comes, God Can Help Us Get Thru It)

NOTICE THE NEXT PHRASE HERE IN MALACHI CHAPTER 3

“...nor will your vine in the field cast its grapes’ says the Lord”

Q.n = What Does That Mean?

Ans = The Word “Cast” Literally Means “To Miscarry,” and It Refers to Your Plans Going Awry

Q.n = Don’t You Just Hate It When You’re Expecting to Make a Profit or Receive an Extra Blessing for Something You Do; But for Some Reason, You are Disappointed?

-> **I’m Probably Talking to Someone This Morning Who, if You Had a Chance Right Now, Would Stand Up and Say to Me, “*But Brother Steve, I Honestly am Living From Paycheck to Paycheck; I’m Barely Making Enough Money to Pay My Bills Much Less Enough to Tithe*”**

-> **If That is Your Situation, My Word to You Today From God’s Word is This “*Based on What I Have Just Shared With You, How Can You Afford Not to Tithe*”**

-> **If Anyone Needs God to Rebuke the Devourer, It is You, Right? If Anyone Needs Their Finances Not to “Miscarry,” It is You, Right? If Anyone Needs God to “*Open the Windows of Heaven and Pour Out a Blessing Until It Overflows,*” It is You, Right?**

-> **So My Advice to You is This: if You Want to be Blessed, You Need to be Blessable
LISTEN TO THIS OLD POEM**

*“The Bride Bent With Age Leaned Over Her Cane,
Her Steps Uncertain Need Guiding;
While Down the Church Aisle, With a Wane Toothless Smile,
Came the Groom in a Wheelchair Gliding.
And Who is This Elderly Couple Thus Wed?
You’ll Discover When You’ve Closely Explored It,
That This is That Rare Most Conservative Pair,
Who Waited Until They Could Afford It”*

Pt = If You Wait Until You Think You Can Afford It, You Will Never Become a Faithful Tither

-> **But if You Will Begin Tithing, You Will Discover That God Owns Everything and That He Can Provide You With Everything That You Need and Then Some**

Invitation:

- > **I Want to Close This Sermon by Saying That There is Something God Wants a Lot More Than Your Money, and That is You**
- > **In 2 Corinthians 8:4-5, We are Told That the People of Macedonia Gave Liberally to Those in Need, But They First Gave of Themselves to the Lord**
- > **And That is the Order That God Wants, He Wants Us to Give Ourselves to Him Much More Than We Want Any Kind of Monetary Thing That We Possess**
- > **And So, if You are Here Today and You Have Not Received Jesus Christ as Your Lord and Savior, I Want You to Know That I do Not Want You to Give a Single Penny to This Church or Any Church Until You First Give Yourself to the Lord**
- > **And I Don't Want You to Give One Thing Until You Discover, First of All, That God Has Already Given You the Best Gift of All**
- > **You Don't Have to Pay for Eternal Salvation; All You Have to do is Receive the Eternal Salvation That God Has Already Provided for You in Christ**
- > **And One Thing That is for Certain is That None of Us Can Out Give God**
- > **In Fact, the Apostle Paul Was so Overwhelmed by This Reality That He Gave Us a Doxology in 2 Corinthians 9:15; and He Summed It All Up by Simply Saying,**

"Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!" (No Greater Gift Could be Given)