

GOD'S GIVING CHALLENGE

Malachi 3:10-12

Introduction

Luke 12:34, Luke 16:11, Malachi 3:10-12

- I. Tithing is a **Message** of **Priority** with God – Malachi 1:8, 14, Proverbs 3:9-10

- II. Tithing is a **Means** of **Proving** God – Malachi 3:10, Luke 6:38

- III. Tithing is a **Manner** of **Provision** by God – Malachi 3:10, Proverbs 11:24, Malachi 3:11, Hebrews 13:5

- IV. Tithing is a **Method** of **Participating** in God's Work – Malachi 3:10

- V. Tithing is a **Matter** of **Protecting** Your Investment – Matthew 6:19-21

Conclusion

SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

Getting Started

1. What does our society teach us (e.g., politics, media, and pop culture) regarding the accumulation of money? How does our society view people who have a lot of money (i.e., Elon Musk, Jeff Bezos, Donald Trump, etc.)?

2. As a child, what type of financial philosophy did you see modeled in your home? How was money valued? In what way did your parents view those with more (or less) money than you?

Going Deeper

1. Read Malachi 3:10-12. In what way can the act of giving money away be a kingdom investment? What thoughts come to mind when you think of giving money away before any other financial option or obligation?

2. Read Proverbs 3:9-10. Describe your thought process during times when you have practiced the biblical discipline of first fruits. Was it easy or difficult at first? Did it get easier? What did you learn?

3. Read 2 Corinthians 9:6, 8. When you give, what do you think? What do you feel (e.g., confident, nervous, excited, fearful, etc.)?

4. Describe a time when you have practiced financial generosity and have experienced that you were better off after giving than before.

5. Read Galatians 6:7, 9. Paul says that “in due season” we will reap a reward if we do not lose heart. What thoughts and emotions come up when you discipline yourself in tithing?

Applying the Message

1. Trusting in God’s reward system is a daily act of faith. Do you find this type of lifestyle challenging, invigorating, or something else?

2. What do you need to do (or stop doing) to move forward in a lifestyle of giving before receiving?