

# USING OUR FINANCES TO PLEASE GOD

## SUMMARIZING THE HOW OF GIVING

**SCRIPTURES OF THE DAY** Monday, September 27, 2021

[Deuteronomy 8:16-18](#); [Matthew 6:19-21](#);

[Matthew 6:24](#); [Matthew 6:33](#)

### STUDY & REFLECTION

I trust you have given focused time to the teaching of the past 3 weeks concerning Financial Health, Wellness and Wholeness. They provide the necessary basis of understanding that enables us to move forward, deeper into what the Lord would have us believe and put into practice as trusted stewards.

These Biblical principles include, **GOD OWNS EVERYTHING!** We as His disciples have been chosen to become TRUSTED STEWARDS OF THAT WHICH HE HAS ENTRUSTED INTO OUR HANDS. What we have been given to possess are KINGDOM ASSETS!

As we move forward, remember that the Word teaches us HOW to give: GENEROUSLY AND WITH JOY. When we practice giving in a Generous way, we give with Purpose: singleness of mind; Giving is a priority. We Give with Sincerity: our giving is not to draw attention to ourselves but to bless the Kingdom and others. And our giving is done Bountifully: abundant liberality that flows from the heart.

These are the HOWS of giving.

We now embark on the what to give, and the where and when to give.

All these principles will be based on the fact that in order to please God with your money you can only do three things:

1. Give it cheerfully, generously, to accomplish God-honoring purposes.
2. Spend it reasonably to meet personal needs and to fulfill personal desires.
3. Save/Invest it strategically in order to extend its value and to keep meeting needs in the future.

### ACTION ITEMS

Think deeply and honestly about what you have learned over the past few weeks regarding the Word of God and Money. Have you prayerfully sought the Lord, seeking to not only be a hearer but a doer of the Word? Understand that this step is critical since it will be the power and virtue behind What you will give.

### INVOLVING OTHERS

Take the time to review with your small group what has been learned and understood over the past few weeks. How has your understanding of How to give changed? How committed are you as a group to develop and embrace a Biblical Culture of Giving?

# USING OUR FINANCES TO PLEASE GOD

## LEARNING AND EMBRACING THE WHAT WHERE AND WHEN OF GIVING

**SCRIPTURES OF THE DAY** Tuesday, September 28, 2021  
Malachi 3:8-12; Malachi 1:6-8

### STUDY & REFLECTION

I challenge you to read and reflect on these passages as the Lord intended, i.e, to hear and see the mind of God concerning His people. Notice that the teaching that brings understanding begins in chapter 1, where Jehovah charges His people of not properly 'honoring' Him (Mal 1:6-8). As we study the Biblical teaching on what to give, we will quickly and repetitively see that genuine giving is a spiritual act that pleases and brings glory to God even as it benefits His people.

The Lord rebuked Israel and His priests because they failed to bring all the 'tithes and offerings' into the Storehouse. Do you believe it...the Lord charges them with 'robbing God!'

We all would exclaim, "**I WOULD NEVER ROB GOD!**" Yet it is clear that their lack of obedience regarding what to give caused them to live under a curse that God never intended them to suffer under.

As we study the Word of God in the next few weeks you will see a number of things:

1. The tithe is not as some state a commandment given for those 'under the law.' As we move forward we will see that the tithe began in Abraham, the Father of Faith, at least 400 years before the law was given.
2. The tithe is only the 'beginning of giving.'
3. The tithe has deep spiritual meaning, especially as it is highlighted to Israel as the Lord redeemed them out of Egypt. This focus is connected with their first-born sons, who should have but did not die! (Ex 13:2)  
Therefore the 'first' of all they had or produced, crops, man, or beast...*belonged to the Lord.*

### ACTION ITEMS

Give thought and prayer to your habit of giving. What guides you as you give? How do you determine what is given? What reference point does the Lord give us as we see tithing discussed in the Bible?

### INVOLVING OTHERS

Share in your small groups what you have understood regarding tithing. Do you think it is a place to start in determining your giving?

## USING OUR FINANCES TO PLEASE GOD

LEARNING AND EMBRACING THE WHAT WHERE AND WHEN OF GIVING - WHAT ABOUT TITHING?

**SCRIPTURES OF THE DAY** Wednesday, September 29, 2021

Malachi 3:8-12; Malachi 1:6-8; Genesis 14:17-20;  
Hebrews 7:1-10

### STUDY & REFLECTION

As we study the Word of God we see that the tithe is demonstrated in several passages in the Bible, in different situations. As previously stated, some reject the tithe as a guide and see it as ‘something taught... under the Law.’ **Let’s see how the *tithe* is presented in the Word.**

The tithe is first mentioned in Gen 14. Abram, who in battle rescued Lot from his enemies, also took the spoils of battle from the kings who had taken Lot. As he is returning from this great victory, he is approached by the King of Salem (Salem here is the ancient city of Jerusalem). This King is also the ‘priest of the Most High God.’ He gives Abram and his men bread and wine. Abram then gives him ‘a tenth of all he had acquired.’

Look at this encounter in the New Testament, in Hebrews 7:1-10. We see here that this King-Priest...Melchisedec, received a tenth from Abraham, our father in the faith. This preceded the Mosaic Law, where the Levitical priests received tithes under the Law. This ‘*tithing*’ took place hundreds of years before Moses was born and sent to deliver Israel from bondage. Here Abraham gives to the priest of the Most-High God, tithes as an act of **honor**. He gives it as an act of **faith**. He honors God in giving a tenth of all he had.

### ACTION ITEMS

What lessons do we learn from the encounter of Abraham and Melchisedec? Why is this encounter recorded in the New Testament? Clearly the writer is showing us in Melchisedec a ‘better priesthood’ than the Levitical priesthood. This ‘priesthood,’ who received tithes of Abraham is a prototype of Jesus (Heb 6:20).

### INVOLVING OTHERS

Discuss today’s devotional reading with your small group.

Share what these passages say to us.

Although a tithe is not demanded, clearly it serves as a reference point in our giving.

## USING OUR FINANCES TO PLEASE GOD

LEARNING AND EMBRACING THE WHAT WHERE AND WHEN OF GIVING - THE 'SPIRIT' OF THE TITHE: 'FIRST-FRUIT' GIVING

**SCRIPTURES OF THE DAY** Thursday, September 30, 2021

Proverbs 3:9-10; Exodus 13:2

### STUDY & REFLECTION

The reference in Proverbs is probably one of the most quoted in Scripture. "*Trust in the Lord with all thine heart and lean not unto thine own understanding...*" The writer then proceeds to urge those who know God to "*honor Him with thy substance (all that you possess of value...money, revenue, etc)...and with the First-fruits of all thy increase.*"

As we examine God's Word, we see that the tithe, the beginning of giving is tied to the First-fruit giving. Spiritually, we always give to the Lord our 'first,' which symbolically represents the best that we have! This is how we 'HONOR' God. Remember, after the Lord spared Israel's first-born sons, He declares, the first-born belongs to me.

**That which Honors God is never a secondary or 'after-thought.'** We always give the Lord our first and best. We do not give to the Lord our 'left-overs.' The word Honor here is the word from which we get 'GLORY.' The Hebrew word is ***kabod***: heavy; weighty. Genuine gold or silver is never 'light in weight.' The more precious the metal is, the 'heavier' it is. We Honor God. We exalt God. We glorify God, by bringing to Him the 'first' and best of all of our increase. This is the true spirit of the tithe.

Of course as we are instructed and encouraged to give, the Lord always connects our obedience with a promise. As we Honor the Lord with our first and best, He declares,

*So shall thy barns be filled with plenty, and thy presses shall burst out with new wine.* (KJV) Prov 3:10

The Living Bible translation declares, when we properly Honor God in our giving, the rewards will be *'health and vitality!'*

### ACTION ITEMS

Examine your pattern of giving. How would you rate the quality of your giving? Is it your commitment to give the Lord your first and best? Can the tithe be used as a guideline for you to begin to better Honor God with your finances?

**TRY HIM AND SEE!**

### INVOLVING OTHERS

We want every child of God to become the trusted, rewarded steward God intends them to become. We often shy away from it, but let's be bold and courageous and openly and transparently discuss with others what we are inspired to do as it relates to giving to God. Let's create a 'culture' where *faithful giving* is a norm.

# USING OUR FINANCES TO PLEASE GOD

THE 'VALUE' OF THE TITHE:

IT BLESSES THE KINGDOM, OTHERS AND YOU!

## SCRIPTURES OF THE DAY

Friday, October 1, 2021

Malachi 3:8-12

### STUDY & REFLECTION

The passage we focus on in Mal 3 should inspire, liberate, and enrich anyone who truly wants to honor and please God in their approach to giving. The thought of robbing God of course is reprehensible. Who would knowingly chance such? The thought of a 'curse,' should not be needed again to those who want to please Him.

Let's look at the tremendous positives. The Lord says to His people, obedience to this commandment will ensure that there will be "*meat in my house.*" The language used clearly indicates that they should bring the "*whole tithe,*" into the storehouse...the house of God. The results will be that there will be no lack in His house. Ministry will flourish and be unencumbered because of a lack of funding.

The personal rewards are given to challenge and grow our faith. Here the God of creation gives us the opportunity to '**prove Him!**' in other words, test me and see if I am not the Faithful God you know me to be. As you elevate your faith in giving...I will open up the windows of heaven and pour out to you such an abundant flow of blessings you will be like the faithful widow, who didn't have enough pots to hold the precious oil that God sent for her blessing. It's amazing....God promises to bless us as we walk in faith in tithing and offerings.

Again, what is shared in the Old, is fully revealed in the New. The tithe is the beginning of giving. *GIVE...and it shall be given unto you, good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over shall others give into your bosom.* (Luke 6:38)

### ACTION ITEMS

How do you now see...tithes and offerings? Are you convinced that how and what we give is a valid indication of our commitment and maturity in God. Are you ready to take the next step of faith in your giving? **TRY GOD!**

### INVOLVING OTHERS

Consider this...what would be the result of Kingdom Ministry if every child of God was committed to genuine tithing and giving liberal offerings? Discuss in your group to what extent would the Kingdom benefit and change if we as a Body committed to giving God's way? If you really feel resourceful Google the average percentage of self-described Christians who tithe to their church.

USING OUR FINANCES TO PLEASE GOD

Review the How, What, and Where to Give

**STUDY &  
REFLECTION**

Devotional Scriptures: the scriptural texts from this week should under the influence of the Holy Spirit, catapult you to a new level of understanding and commitment to giving that will result in blessings to you, others, and the Kingdom.

As we continue, get ready for knowledge and understanding regarding *spending and investing*.

LET'S GET ALL-IN FOR FINANCIAL HEALTH WELLNESS AND WHOLENESS!

**SHALOM**