

**The Best Things in Life are Timeless
(Part 2)**

**Pastor Bill Bowers
January 29, 2017**

Text: Malachi 3:7—10, Matthew 6:20

R.O.I.—Return on Investment.

Financial Advice from God (Malachi 3:7-10)

"Ever since the time of your ancestors you have turned away from My decrees and have not kept them. Return to Me, and I will return to you," says the Lord Almighty.

"But you ask, 'How are we robbing You?' In tithes and offerings."
Malachi 3:8 (NIV)

"Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in My house. Test Me in this," says the Lord Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it." Malachi 3:10 (NIV)

- **The Command: "Don't rob Me of tithes and offerings."**
- **The Invitation: "Test Me in this." says the Lord Almighty... Malachi 3:10**

The Push Back: "If I made more money, I _____."

\$25,000 gave 7.7%
 \$25—50,000 gave 4.8%
 \$50—75,000 gave 3.5%
 \$75—100,000 gave 3.0%
 \$100,000—200,000 gave 2.6%
 \$200,000+ gave 2.8%

God isn't satisfied with bringing in _____.

God asks you to give Him a tithe - _____.

The tithe _____ to God.

Here is what God is saying: "_____ of your income with my blessing is greater than _____ of your income without My blessing."

Bottom Line: When you become a caretaker of _____,

God becomes a caretaker of _____.

Next Steps:

- Commit your life to Jesus Christ and ask God for the desire to put God FIRST in your finances.
- Understand that God isn't satisfied with your leftovers.
- Know that **God can be trusted** and that He understands this might be hard or scary for you.
- Don't miss next week!

JESUS: "...store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal." Matthew 6:20

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LifeGroup and Personal Study Questions

- In this week's teaching, we learned timeless ideas about giving, particularly in the area of finances. A timeless biblical principle we are encouraged to practice is the tithe. What do you think about this principle? Share your thoughts in detail.
- While the teaching and practice of the tithe is spoken of often in the Old Testament Scriptures, it is less prominently mentioned in the New Testament verses. Why do you think this is? Do you think it lends to support or takes away from support of continuing the tithe? Explain your answers and try to provide biblical support for them.
- What do you think the measure of giving, or support of your church, or Christian generosity should be? What is your standard, if not a foundation or beginning point of ten percent (tithe)? How do you think you should allocate your finances in relationship to the principles of "Kingdom of God" living? Can you be specific?
- While some followers of Jesus are exceedingly generous with sharing their finances, statistics (at least those shared in Sunday's message) indicate that a great number of people give less than five percent of their income back to the work of God. Why do you think this is the case? What do you think it would take for people to be more generous with their finances and material possessions? What would it take for you to become more faithful and generous with your finances?
- Pastor Bill listed a number of next steps we might consider as we journey in more faithful direction toward becoming like Jesus. What might be your next step in order to become more like Christ?

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