

WILL A MAN ROB GOD?

Malachi 2:17-3:15

October 16, 2016

“Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the LORD of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it.” Malachi 3:10

Many sins infected the remnant of Israel who had returned from captivity to their homeland. One was their failure to tithe, which was a symptom of deeper spiritual ills. Through His prophet, God confronted them and pronounced them guilty of robbing God.

They were not prospering. Haggai, another prophet who exhorted the returned remnant, put it this way: “Now therefore thus saith the LORD of hosts; Consider your ways. Ye have sown much, and bring in little; ye eat, but ye have not enough; ye drink, but ye are not filled with drink; ye clothe you, but there is none warm; and he that earneth wages earneth wages to put it into a bag with holes. Thus saith the LORD of hosts; Consider your ways” (Haggai 1:5-7).

Malachi admonished them to bring their tithes to the temple, then God would “open you the windows of heaven, and pour out a blessing.” This concept has been abused throughout history. False teachers enrich themselves by promising donors that God will reward them for giving. Abuse of this biblical concept, rather than discrediting it, gives cause to expound it more clearly.

1. God does not need our tithe. He created everything without us.
2. Tithing will not win favor with God. Only Christ’s sacrifice wins God’s favor.
3. Tithing is a “reasonable service.” In light of the mercies we’ve received from God, our whole being should be presented to Him, not just a tithe (Romans 12:1-2).
4. Tithing is not to be misperceived as the mark of a Godly person.
“Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye pay tithe of mint and anise and cummin, and have omitted the weightier matters of the law, judgment, mercy, and faith: these ought ye to have done, and not to leave the other undone. Ye blind guides, which strain at a gnat, and swallow a camel. Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye make clean the outside of the cup and of the platter, but within they are full of extortion and excess” (Matthew 23:23-25).
5. Tithing is a grace by which we are participants with God in building of His kingdom.
6. Refusal to tithe is a sign of deeper, greater spiritual ill.

7. Refusing the title is robbing God.