

GOD'S PLAN FOR FINANCING HIS WORK

(and for Growing His Children)

TEXT: Malachi 3:8-12

INTRODUCTION: We have seen that stewardship is the great regulative principle of life. All of life is a stewardship. God owns everything – including us (1 Cor. 6:19, 20). Stewardship begins therefore with the acknowledgement that all we are and have belong to God and with a solemn consecration of ourselves to God (Rom. 12:1,2).

Just as God has a plan for our lives, He has a plan for His Church. These plans do not clash. If we as individual believers will fulfill God's plan for giving, the needs of any true New Testament church will be abundantly met, our faith will be strengthened, and God will be glorified.

OUTLINE: God's words to Israel through the Old Testament prophet Malachi are still relevant to us today.

- I. Tithing Neglected** (vv. 8, 9)
 - A.** Not a matter of Old Testament legalism
 - 1. Tithing predates the law.
 - 2. Tithing supersedes the law.
 - B.** A matter of keeping faith with God (*"will a man rob God?"*)
- II. Tithing Enjoined** (v. 10 *"prove me now herewith"*)
 - A.** God's purpose – to reveal Himself
 - B.** God's promise (*"open you the windows of heaven"*)
 - 1. First condition – *"all"*
 - 2. Second condition – *"now"*
- III. Tithing Rewarded** (vv. 11, 12)
 - A.** Sufficiency for God's house (*"meat in mine house"*)
 - B.** Immunity for God's child (*"rebuke the devourer"*)

CONCLUSION: Why should we thus determine to prove God in the matter of tithing? Because it will **glorify God** when we obey and He clearly provides for us and protects us. God always gives the grace to fulfill His conditions for promised blessings. We have proved His promises in salvation. Shall we not prove them in the area of stewardship? Now?

