

## Should I Tithe? # 9

Malachi 3: 8-10

Tonight I want to deal with a matter that many Baptist don't like to address. When a preacher mentions tithing people get nervous. We may not like to consider it, but there is a biblical mandate for us to tithe. Folks may choose not to tithe, but in the end, they are only hurting themselves. You cannot out-give the Lord, and He will bless those who give from a willing heart.

I realize that we have experienced some difficult economic times in recent years. These hard times have affected the church. When money is tight, people often neglect their tithe. Many missionaries have felt the pinch of reduction in support through missions giving. This is a direct result of less money being put in the offering plate. The average church could accomplish much, and even need to look for new areas of ministry if their congregations would just tithe.

*A little girl was given two dollars by her father. He told her that she could do anything she wanted with one and that the other was to be given to God on Sunday at church. The girl nodded in agreement and asked if she could go to the candy store. With visions of all that she could buy with her dollar, she happily skipped toward the store, holding tightly to the two dollars in her hand. As she was skipping along, she tripped and fell and the wind blew one of the dollars into a storm drain at the curb. Picking herself up, the little girl looked at the dollar still in her hand and then at the storm drain and said, "Well, Lord, there goes your dollar." Sadly, many of us Christians have the same attitude toward giving. First me, then God.<sup>i</sup>*

Using this passage in Malachi as our text, I want to examine the [biblical principles](#) regarding tithing as we consider the question: [Should I Tithe?](#)

**I. The Problem with Tithing** (8) – [Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings.](#) The giving of tithes and offerings is pleasing unto the Lord. We are without question a blessed people. God has met our needs and many of our wants. The child of God should be mindful of these blessings. However, there are many who choose not to honor God with His tithe.

- We would never think of taking something that isn't ours. We were taught as children not to steal. It is the 8<sup>th</sup> commandment; [Thou shalt not steal](#). Even though we know this, many are guilty of robbing God! It is foolish to think that God isn't aware of what we owe Him. I don't know your salary; it's none of my business, but God does and it is His business.
- Consider the events in [Acts 5:1-11](#). It is evident that God views our honesty and attitude in tithing a serious matter. If you are not tithing, you are robbing God. That is a serious problem.

Have you considered that if you willingly gave God what's His, He may allow you to have more? I'm not saying bargain with God, but He will honor what you give Him with a pure heart.

### **I. The Problem with Tithing** (8)

**II. The Pattern for Tithing** (10a) – *Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse.* The matter of tithing is ordained of God; this isn't a Baptist thing. Many think we only want their money. I am not telling you to give, God is! This began before the law was given. In Gen.14:19-20 we find Abraham giving tithes. *And he blessed him, and said, Blessed be Abram of the most high God, possessor of heaven and earth: [20] And blessed be the most high God, which hath delivered thine enemies into thy hand. And he gave him tithes of all.*

- Jacob continued this worship by giving 10 %. *Gen.28:22 – And this stone, which I have set for a pillar, shall be God's house: and of all that thou shalt give me I will surely give the tenth unto thee.*
- Moses commanded the tithe as part of God's law. *Lev.27:30-33 – And all the tithe of the land, whether of the seed of the land, or of the fruit of the tree, is the Lord's: it is holy unto the Lord. [31] And if a man will at all redeem ought of his tithes, he shall add thereto the fifth part thereof. [32] And concerning the tithe of the herd, or of the flock, even of whatsoever passeth under the rod, the tenth shall be holy unto the Lord. [33] He shall not search whether it be good or bad, neither shall he change it: and if he change it at all, then both it and the change thereof shall be holy; it shall not be redeemed.*
- Jesus spoke of giving tithes. *Matt.23:23 – 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.*
- Paul gave us insight to tithing in *1 Cor.16:1-2 – Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I have given order to the churches of Galatia, even so do ye. [2] Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come. By this we see:*

**A. Tithing is Continual** – They were commanded to give on the 1<sup>st</sup> day of the week, the Lord's day. It should be the conviction of every Christian to give continually and consistently. We don't pay the power bill or mortgage only when we choose. God deserves and expects His as well.

**B. Tithing is Universal** – The call to tithe included everyone. Tithing isn't just for the pastor, deacons, or church officers; we are all included. I believe we should encourage our children to tithe wages of summer jobs. We need to instill their responsibility to God

**C. Tithing is Provisional** – We are to give as God has prospered us. He just wants you to give as He has given you. The amount of 10% is generally accepted, but God has blessed some who could give more. I would encourage you to give as God leads and as He has blessed you. He will honor your gift.

- The widow's mites were more in the eyes of the Lord than the riches of the wealthy. In the Old Testament, God allowed the poor to bring two turtle doves or pigeons as a sacrifice instead of a ram or bullock. Give as you have received.

### **I. The Problem with Tithing** (8)

### **II. The Pattern for Tithing** (10a)

**III. The Purpose of Tithing** (10b) – [Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house.](#) What is the purpose of tithing? Why do we do it? God owns it all anyway; why does He need my money? Let's look and see:

**A. The Aspect of Worship** – It is actually a privilege to pay our tithes. It is a means by which we worship God for His abundance. By giving we recognize that He owns it and we owe it. We are, in fact, praising God for His blessings.

- This must be done properly if our tithe is to honor Him. [Matt.6:3-4 – But when thou doest alms, let not thy left hand know what thy right hand doeth: \[4\] That thine alms may be in secret: and thy Father which seeth in secret himself shall reward thee openly.](#) We must give with a pure heart as unto God, not for men's approval.

**B. The Aspect of Work** – Tithing is the Biblical method of financing God's work. It is an honor to be a part of God's work. Your tithe helps Fellowship carry out the work God has called us to do. Tithes pay my salary, they purchase Bibles, they support missionaries and mission opportunities, and they help those in need. You may never know, here on earth, how God has used your tithe for the furtherance of His kingdom!

**C. The Aspect of Witness** – Tithing helps develop a sense of responsibility to God. You see, it really isn't about your money, it is about obedience. God is well able to multiply the gift you give. He is more concerned with the giver than the gift. God wants you to tithe because you want to. If you begrudge your tithe or consider it a burden, you have missed what God desires. [2 Cor.9:7 – Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver.](#)

**I. The Problem with Tithing** (8)

**II. The Pattern for Tithing** (10a)

**III. The Purpose of Tithing** (10b)

**IV. The Promise of Tithing** (10) – [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.](#) God has promised to open the windows of heaven for those who tithe with a pure heart. Remember, this isn't about bargaining with God. We cannot give to God just so He will bless us; but, if we obey Him, He will reward us. The widow only had one handful of meal and a little oil. She gave it as God commanded and He sustained her. (Illus. Brother Rick at St. Mark). God will never be indebted to you. He will reward that you give to honor Him.

**Conclusion:** I don't know where you stand on tithing, but it is clearly a biblical principle. I would encourage you to give unto the Lord. If you will give God what He deserves, He will meet your needs. If He doesn't, you come to me and I will apologize. I can assure you I won't have to apologize. There are many who have missed out on blessings of God because they were unwilling to give Him His tithe.

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<sup>i</sup>Green, M. P. (1989). *Illustrations for Biblical Preaching : Over 1500 sermon illustrations arranged by topic and indexed exhaustively* (Revised edition of: The expositor's illustration file). Grand Rapids: Baker Book House.