

A Lifestyle That Gives

Why The Tithe? (Continued)

- I am going to try to convince you tithing is a **valuable** key in creating **prosperity**.
- Tithing cures an **awful** curse that has devastated so many homes.

Malachi 3:6-12

A. Tithing is a test and it is a test of our **hearts**.

- Wherever we put our treasure is where our heart is.
 - Every time you get paid – you're **tested** to see what you will do.

This is Malachi 3 in a nutshell.

1. If I tithe, I am **blessed**; if I don't tithe, I'm **cursed**.
2. You can be a **Christian** and come under curses.
 - Some people teach: once you become a Christian, you cannot be **cursed**.

What they are saying is this: "I can say anything I want to, I can live any way I want to or act any way I see fit, and I will **never** face any consequences."

3. When you confess Jesus Christ as Lord, you will go to Heaven by grace, but **how** you live on this earth affects your **life** and your **family** on this earth.

Church, let's dig down to Biblical truth:

- It is truth that Jesus bore the curse on the **cross**.

Question: Did Jesus bear sickness on the cross?

Answer: **Yes**, He did.

Matthew 8:17

Another question: Have you ever been sick since you got saved?

Sure you have!

- What do you have to do if you're a Christian, and you get sick?
- Answer:

 4. To receive healing from sickness, you have to appropriate by **faith** what Jesus already did.

Here is another question: Did Jesus bear sin on the cross?

Answer: **Yes**

Another question: since you believed, have you sinned?

Answer: Sure you have

How could that be if Jesus bore sin on the cross – sin is **eradicated** from your life.

Church: we live in a fallen world, but what do we do when we sin?

Answer: We appropriate by **faith** what Jesus did on the cross for us.

1 John 1:9 – is written to the believer

Here is what we need to see!

Did Jesus bear curses on the cross?

Answer: **yes**, Jesus bore curses on the cross!

5. But if we, but if **you**, making it personal, do not **apply** God's Word and its principles, which is violating God's principles, your family could be under a **curse**.

Tithing is not only a test of our hearts,

Second thing:

B. Tithing is **biblical**; it's in the **Bible**.

Let's look at other scriptures on tithing:

Genesis 14:18-20

- This is **500** years approximately before the Law.
- 6. Abraham who represents our spiritual **father** as we believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, tithed to Melchizedek who represents **Jesus**; 500 years before the Law.

Genesis 28:22 – this is Jacob

- This is **400** years before the Law.
 - * Our spiritual forefathers tithed because it is a principle of **God**.
 - The principle is the tithe belongs to **God**.

Leviticus 27:30

Deuteronomy 26:1-2 – firstfruits

Notice you take your tithe with you to a place of worship – where His name abides – His **presence**

Deuteronomy 26:13-14

Verse 15 – your prayer

Deuteronomy 26:15

7. When you bring your tithe and put it in the place of God's presence (**Church**), you then say, I have removed the holy tithe from **my** house and I brought it to **Your** house, Holy God.

The tithe goes to the storehouse and you give above and beyond the tithe where **God** leads you.

8. God chose the Church to make His **name** abide and that is God's **principle**.
 - The first portion goes to God and is not designated, but **returned**.

There is a story in the Bible:

A farmer gave his land to the priest but he has an ability to buy it back if he gives **20%** to the priest.

I don't want my ministry or call to be mine, I want it to be God's – so I give – Teri and I give **20%** so it's **God's**.

Matthew 23:23a

²³ "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you pay tithe of mint and anise and cummin, and have neglected the weightier *matters* of the law: justice and mercy and faith...

Listen closely to the last part of this verse:

Matthew 23:23b

²³ ... These you ought to have done, without leaving the others undone.

* Jesus speaks and says this:

- You guys have tithed on every **little** thing.
- You even tithe on the things, **spices** you put on your food.
- But you neglected justice, mercy and faith.

Jesus **didn't** say – you don't need to do that tithe anymore because this is the **New** Testament.

9. Jesus said, you **ought** to do this, which is tithing on every little thing, but don't neglect the other which is justice, mercy, and faith.

Basically Jesus stated: you ought to **tithe**.