

MORE THAN A MONEY TITHE BELONGS TO GOD

Malachi 3:7-10

Introduction: Sadly most christians do not know exactly what belongs to God. Most are familiar with the "tithe" although not all christians actually "tithe" with "tithing" meaning giving a tenth of one's income. The book of Malachi is about God's people denying that they had been holding back what belonged to God. Is the "tithe" of one's money all that belongs to God?

I. A TENTH OF ONE'S SUBSTANCE IS OWED TO GOD

1. Every material blessing one has received from God is "substance."
- Financial income from a job, from a business, from a gift.
2. Every Jew gave a tenth to God, some even so far as a tenth from their spices.
- That is a lesson for the christian, a tithe from more than money.
3. If every christian actually tithed of what God had blessed him/her with what a blessing it would be to the church and it's abilities to reach out more.
4. A tenth of everything that a christian owns is owed to God.

II. A SEVENTH OF ONE'S TIME IS OWED TO GOD

1. God finished His creation on the sixth day and rested on the seventh and then He set that day apart, sanctified it.
2. Every Jew kept that seventh day apart for God, doing certain things, not doing certain things, for it was God's day, it belonged to Him.
3. If every christian would keep Sunday (the day Christ arose from the grave), one of the seven days of the week, a tithe or a tenth of the week, how honored the Lord would be and how full would be all the sanctuaries of the churches.
4. One day of seven is owed to God and in the Christians situation, it is Sunday.

III. ONE'S BODY IS OWED TO GOD

1. *"I beesech you brethren by the mercies of God that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice unto God..." (Romans 12:1)*
2. Most don't think about it but if a christian, then every part of one's body belongs to God: eyes, ears, tongue, hands, feet, everything is for God's use.
3. Most don't know about this tithe, but those who do know, usually don't and thus deny God something that is owed to Him.
4. Not just a tithe of money and time is owed God, the body of the child of God is owed to God as well.

IV. ONE'S HEART IS OWED TO GOD

1. *"My son, give me thy heart..." (Proverbs 23:26)*
2. The heart is the soul with all it's powers, capacities and affections.
3. The christian's heart belongs completely, to God and nobody else.
4. The christian cannot be "double-minded" or double-hearted.

V. EVERYTHING ONE DOES IS OWED TO GOD AND HIS HONOR

1. *"Whether therefore ye eat or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God." (1 Corinthians 10:31)*
2. To some this sounds like a type of "enslavement" and thus is avoided by many christians. Too great a commitment for most as "self" has not been defeated in that life yet and God is not really in first place.
3. Doing everything for God is most rewarding as pleasing Him is what matters.
4. This is a great battleground for most christians - giving God ALL the glory.

VI. EVERYTHING MUST BE FORSAKEN FOR GOD

1. *"He that loveth father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me; and he that loveth son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me, and he that taketh not his cross and followeth after Me is not worthy of Me." (Matthew 10:37, 38)*

"If any man come to Me and hate not his father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be My disciple." (Luke 14:26)

"So likewise, whosoever he be of you that forsaketh not all that he hath, he cannot be my disciple." (Luke 14:33)

2. Salvation is not the issue here, it is the conditions Jesus sets forth to be able to receive the greatest blessings from God.
3. God will not force His children to give Him anything, but considering what He is giving His children, nothing is too much to give back to Him

CONCLUSION:

1. Which would one rather have, the gift or the giver? Think about it.
2. Giving a tenth of one's income is one thing, but to give one's entire, total self to God? Yet that is what God wants, so that He may pour out even more blessings.
3. Can one outgive God? Many christians think they can and are afraid to give God all.
4. Sadly too many christians wait until their life is just about over before learning that one cannot outgive God and have lived their life with far less than what God wanted them to have because they were afraid to give everything to God.
5. If God's children would give their entire being and possessions to Him, He would pour out more blessings than they could possibly use. "One's all for God's all."
6. How can one be afraid to trust God with all he/she has or is? Can God fail?