



Tuesday, April 29, 2008

A Commitment to Give

Sermon Four:
"The Blessings of the Tithe"

Malachi 3: 10 - 12 (NKJV)

Pastor Darrell Jackson, Sr.

- In this fourth and final message of this series, we will discuss the concept of tithing as it relates to its origin and its relevance today.
- Last week, we talked about the blessings of the firstfruits.
- The difference between the firstfruits and the tithe is that the firstfruits is what we give God, and the tithe is what we owe God.
- Leviticus 27:32 reads, "The tenth shall be holy to the Lord".
- It is clear through scripture that the tithe belongs to the Lord.
- It is not yours, it is God's!
- In fact, all that we have belongs to God. However the tithe is what He requires us to give back to Him.
- In Deuteronomy 14:2, Moses says to the children of Israel as they were about to enter into their land of promise,

"You shall truly tithe all the increase of your grain that the field produces year by year".
- Many critics of the concept of tithing say that it was a part of the Mosaic Law and is no longer relevant.
- However, in Genesis 14:18, before Moses was born, Abraham the great patriarch of our faith tithed.

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- The purpose of the tithe was to support the operations of the Temple.
- That is why it is referred to as holy money and viewed as sacred unto the Lord.
- As we refer to our scriptural text, let us examine the blessings that are promised as a result of being a faithful tither.
- In our text, God expressed His disappointment with the nation of Judah for their lack of commitment in the area of tithing.
- He tells them in verse 6 that the only reason they were not destroyed by their enemy was because of His unchanging mercy.
- In verse nine, God told them that when they rob God by withholding their tithe, they would be cursed with a curse.
- However, this message examines the blessings of being faithful tithers as found in verses 10 – 12.
- In verse 10, God, through the prophet Malachi tells the nation of Judah that they are to bring their tithes into God's storehouse for the purpose of advancing the Kingdom.
- God asked them to prove Him, to put His word to the test, and see if He would not bless them in the following ways:
 1. He would open the windows of heaven and pour out blessings that there shall not be room enough to receive it. (Overflow)
 2. He would rebuke the devourer. And will not allow the enemy to destroy the fruit of their ground. (Their seed would be blessed)
 3. All nations would call them blessed, for their land would be such a delight.
- The Blessings of the Tithe!