

RETURN TO ME

WILL A MAN ROB GOD?

Malachi 3:7-12 Jeff Schreve

"From the days of your fathers you have turned aside from My statutes, and have not kept them. Return to Me, and I will return to you," says the LORD of hosts. "But you say, 'How shall we return?'" Malachi 3:7

"Will a man rob God? Yet you are robbing Me! But you say, 'How have we robbed Thee?' In tithes and offerings. Malachi 3:8

Why does God pinpoint our finances in returning to Him?

1. There is the connection between our heart and our money.

"Do not lay up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves do not break in or steal; for where your treasure is, there will your heart be also. Matthew 6:19-21

- If you truly return to God, it will show up in your giving.

2. There is the issue of the tithe.

You people are robbing me, your God. And, here you are, asking, "How are we robbing you?" You are robbing me of the offerings and of the ten percent that belongs to me. That's why your whole nation is under a curse.

Malachi 3:8-9 CEV

A. Tithing is clearly commanded in the Law.

Thus all the tithe of the land ... is the LORD'S; it is holy to the LORD. Leviticus 27:30

B. Tithing is clearly practiced before the Law.

"... of all that You give me, I will surely give a tenth to You." Genesis 28:22

C. Tithing is clearly a ground floor model for Christians today.

"So therefore, no one of you can be My disciple who does not give up all his own possessions." Luke 14:33

3. There is the mystery of the tithe.

A. If you rob God, you rob yourself.

You are cursed with a curse, for you are robbing Me, the whole nation of you! Malachi 3:9

B. If you honor God, you get in on His blessings.

"Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, so that there may be food in My house, and test Me now in this," says the LORD of hosts, "if I will not open for you the windows of heaven, and pour out for you a blessing until it overflows. Then I will rebuke the devourer for you, so that it may not destroy the fruits of the ground; nor will your vine in the field cast its grapes," says the LORD of hosts. "And all the nations will call you blessed, for you shall be a delightful land," says the LORD of hosts. Malachi 3:10-12

1. You will experience miraculous provision.

2. You will experience miraculous protection.

3. You will experience spiritual growth and abundant joy.

Let each one do just as he has purposed in his heart; not grudgingly or under compulsion; for God loves a cheerful giver. 2 Corinthians 9:7

The choice is yours: Will you rob God or trust God?