

PUTTING YOUR SKIN IN THE GAME!

Malachi 3:6-12

INTRODUCTION: Let me ask: "Are you all in" in your relationship with Jesus Christ? Revelations 3:14-16; Luke 9:23. We really should not expect our God Who gave His only begotten Son to pay for our sins not to require of us that we put our skin in the game of life to glorify and serve our Savior! Today we will look at one of the biggest obstacles believers in Jesus Christ have to putting the skin in the game and that is in the area of finances. Jesus said if God doesn't have your money He does not have your heart: Matthew 6:19-21. We put our money where our heart is. There are three things you can do with your money; you can spend it, save it, or give it. Managing our money is really very simple if we will simply follow God's plan. The key to managing our money is to let God rule in our hearts!

I. GOD CARES ABOUT YOUR PRIORITY IN YOU'RE GIVING!

Malachi and Jeremiah were the two most unpopular prophets in the Old Testament because the both confronted their nation for doing things their own way instead of God's way. Malachi 3:7-8. Our God keeps books and He knew they were keeping something that did not belong to them. God's priority with money has always been the same: give, save, and spend! Their priority was spend, save, and give only what little might be left. Luke 6:38.

II. OUR GOD CARES ABOUT THE PERCENTAGE OF OUR GIVING!

God has the remedy for robbing God: Malachi 3:10. They were not to bring a tip for God. They were to bring a full ten percent of their income to the storehouse. Tithing is very important because it reminds us everything we have belongs to God: 1 Corinthians 4:7. When you decide to tithe you are saying "God I trust you to more with what is left over than I can do with all of my money." 2 Corinthians 9:6-8.

III. GOD CARES ABOUT THE PLACE OF OUR GIVING!

We are not only told what to bring but we are told where to bring it: Malachi 3:10. The storehouse was a storage room in the temple where people would come and deposit their tithes and offerings. The temple at that time was the place of God's presence and the distribution center for God's ministry and work. The temple of God today is each individual believer: 1 Corinthians 6:19-20, 1 Corinthians 16:1-2. God will direct each of us where and how much to give to others in their need.

IV. GOD CARES ABOUT THE PURPOSE OF OUR GIVING!

We bring full tithe by faith into our storehouse so that "there may be meat in my house." Malachi 3:10. God blesses us so He can use us to bless others for His glory. Deuteronomy 14:22-23. Our tithing not only puts our money where it belongs but we put our God where He belongs: first!

V. GOD CARES ABOUT THE PROMISE OF HIS GIVING!

Our God says “to 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.” Malachi 3:10. Our giving to God puts Him to the test to see if you will be the first person in heaven that God has not blessed for putting Him first in their lives! When we don’t put God first in our finances here is what happens: Malachi 3:9. If your way of spending, saving and giving isn’t working very well for you could it be time to try it God’s way: giving, saving, and spending! Is it time to get your skin in the game! Malachi 3:10.