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Concerning the Tithe  
Malachi 3:8-11

INTRO: Everyone should tithe. The rich should tithe: "Freely ye have received, freely give" Matt 10:8. The poor should tithe for God says in Malachi 3:11: "I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes...." The man who is in debt should tithe, and the man who has no debt should tithe. Think of the debt we owed spiritually; Jesus paid it all!

1) THE TITHE BELONGS TO THE LORD

- a) The word tithe always means tenth. The Bible and the dictionary both define tithe as a tenth. In Genesis 28:22, Jacob said: "...of all that thou shalt give me I will surely give the tenth unto thee."
- b) The tithe is to be given off the top. It is not to be a leftover when all other things are paid (Prov 3:9-10).
- c) Since the tithe is the Lord's, we have no right to keep it to ourselves (Lev 27:30,32).
  - i) We are to tithe in good times.
  - ii) We are to tithe in bad times.

2) FAILURE TO TITHE BRINGS A CURSE

- a) The Bible says that people are under a curse when they do not tithe (Malachi 3:9).
- b) We are guilty of robbery if we do not tithe (Malachi 3:8). Surely you don't want to be a God robber.

3) TITHING BRINGS THE BLESSINGS OF THE LORD

- a) When we tithe, God promises to bless (Mal 3:10; Prov 3:9-10).
- b) The man who tithes not only blesses himself, he blesses his children and grandchildren (Heb 7:8-10).

4) TITHING IS A BIBLE PRINCIPLE PRACTICED IN ALL AGES

- a) In Genesis 14:20, we see Abraham tithing before the law.
- b) Jacob, according to Genesis 28:22, tithed before the law.
- c) Tithing was incorporated into the law (Lev 27:30).
- d) Tithing was taught by the prophets (Mal 3:10).
- e) Tithing was expected by the Lord Jesus (Matt 23:23).
- f) Tithing was practiced by the Apostle Paul and the Christians of his day (Heb 7:8).
- g) The tithe is expected of the New Testament church, and it is collected on the first day of the week (Sunday) (I Cor 16:2).

- i) Jesus arose on the first day of the week, the first fruits of them that slept.
- ii) We honor our Lord's death, burial, and resurrection by tithing.

5) THE TITHE IS GIVEN TO THE LOCAL CHURCH

- a) You cannot designate the tithe. The tithe goes into the storehouse, the church (Mal 3:10). The Bible teaches what is known as in house, storehouse tithing. Offerings above the tithe can be designated.
- b) The early New Testament church received and dispersed the tithe (Acts 4:34-35).

6) HOW CAN I TITHE?

- a) We can tithe by putting Christ first (Matt 6:33). Many do not tithe because they are selfish.
- b) We can tithe by faith (Heb 11:6). The Bible teaches us to live by faith and give by faith. We are not to look to our natural ability when it comes to the tithe. We are to tithe by faith.
- c) We can tithe as we trust the supernatural provision of God (II Cor 9:8).
- d) We can tithe when we truly see the greatness of the work of God (Haggai 1:4-7).

CONCLUSION: Tithing is God's plan; it is God's way; and it is not to be forgotten or forsaken.

Youngsters need to tithe.

Teens need to tithe.

Adults need to tithe.