

**MALACHI**  
**CHAPTER 3 – 8-28-16**

Malachi 3:1 Behold, I will send my messenger, and he shall prepare the way before me: and the Lord, whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to his temple, even the messenger of the covenant, whom ye delight in: behold, he shall come, saith the LORD of hosts.

Malachi 3:2 But who may abide the day of his coming? and who shall stand when he appeareth? for he is like a refiner's fire, and like fullers' soap:

Malachi 3:3 And he shall sit as a refiner and purifier of silver: and he shall purify the sons of Levi, and purge them as gold and silver, that they may offer unto the LORD an offering in righteousness.

Malachi 3:4 Then shall the offering of Judah and Jerusalem be pleasant unto the LORD, as in the days of old, and as in former years.

Malachi 3:5 And I will come near to you to judgment; and I will be a swift witness against the sorcerers, and against the adulterers, and against false swearers, and against those that oppress the hireling in his wages, the widow, and the fatherless, and that turn aside the stranger from his right, and fear not me, saith the LORD of hosts.

Malachi 3:6 For I am the LORD, I change not; therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed.

Malachi 3:7 Even from the days of your fathers ye are gone away from mine ordinances, and have not kept them. Return unto me, and I will return unto you, saith the LORD of hosts. But ye said, Wherein shall we return?

Malachi 3:8 Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings.

Malachi 3:9 Ye are cursed with a curse: for ye have robbed me, even this whole nation.

Malachi 3:10 Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and 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 3:11 And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, and he shall not destroy the fruits of your ground; neither shall your vine cast her fruit before the time in the field, saith the LORD of hosts.

Malachi 3:12 And all nations shall call you blessed: for ye shall be a delightsome land, saith the LORD of hosts.

Malachi 3:13 Your words have been stout against me, saith the LORD. Yet ye say, What have we spoken so much against thee?

Malachi 3:14 Ye have said, It is vain to serve God: and what profit is it that we have kept his ordinance, and that we have walked mournfully before the LORD of hosts?

Malachi 3:15 And now we call the proud happy; yea, they that work wickedness are set up; yea, they that tempt God are even delivered.

Malachi 3:16 Then they that feared the LORD spake often one to another: and the LORD hearkened, and heard it, and a book of remembrance was written before him for them that feared the LORD, and that thought upon his name.

Malachi 3:17 And they shall be mine, saith the LORD of hosts, in that day when I make up my jewels; and I will spare them, as a man spareth his own son that serveth him.

Malachi 3:18 Then shall ye return, and discern between the righteous and the wicked, between him that serveth God and him that serveth him not.

**I. THE MESSENGER SENT TO PREPARE THE WAY OF THE LORD:**

Malachi 3:1 Behold, I will send my messenger, and he shall prepare the way before me: and the Lord, whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to his temple, even the messenger of the covenant, whom ye delight in: behold, he shall come, saith the LORD of hosts.

## **1. John the Baptist was that messenger.**

Luke 3:2 Annas and Caiaphas being the high priests, the word of God came unto John the son of Zacharias in the wilderness.

Luke 3:3 And he came into all the country about Jordan, preaching the baptism of repentance for the remission of sins;

Luke 3:4 As it is written in the book of the words of Esaias the prophet, saying, The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.

Luke 3:5 Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be brought low; and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways shall be made smooth;

Luke 3:6 And all flesh shall see the salvation of God.

Luke 3:7 Then said he to the multitude that came forth to be baptized of him, O generation of vipers, who hath warned you to flee from the wrath to come?

Luke 3:8 Bring forth therefore fruits worthy of repentance, and begin not to say within yourselves, We have Abraham to our father: for I say unto you, That God is able of these stones to raise up children unto Abraham.

Luke 3:9 And now also the axe is laid unto the root of the trees: every tree therefore which bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire.

Luke 3:10 And the people asked him, saying, What shall we do then?

Luke 3:11 He answereth and saith unto them, He that hath two coats, let him impart to him that hath none; and he that hath meat, let him do likewise.

Luke 3:12 Then came also publicans to be baptized, and said unto him, Master, what shall we do?

Luke 3:13 And he said unto them, Exact no more than that which is appointed you.

Luke 3:14 And the soldiers likewise demanded of him, saying, And what shall we do? And he said unto them, Do violence to no man, neither accuse any falsely; and be content with your wages.

Luke 3:15 And as the people were in expectation, and all men mused in their hearts of John, whether he were the Christ, or not;

Luke 3:16 John answered, saying unto them all, I indeed baptize you with water; but one mightier than I cometh, the latchet of whose shoes I am not worthy to unloose: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost and with fire:

Luke 3:17 Whose fan is in his hand, and he will throughly purge his floor, and will gather the wheat into his garner; but the chaff he will burn with fire unquenchable.

Luke 3:18 And many other things in his exhortation preached he unto the people.

### **A. SOME IMPORTANT FACTS ABOUT JOHN THE BAPTIST:**

Note: John was about 6 months older than Jesus.

Duration of John's Ministry: There are different opinions about the duration. Some say 2-3 years; others say 18 months. He was only ministering about 6 months when Jesus showed up to be baptized.

Jesus said John was the greatest of the OT prophets.

Luke 7:24 And when the messengers of John were departed, he began to speak unto the people concerning John, What went ye out into the wilderness for to see? A reed shaken with the wind?

Luke 7:25 But what went ye out for to see? A man clothed in soft raiment? Behold, they which are gorgeously apparelled, and live delicately, are in kings' courts.

Luke 7:26 But what went ye out for to see? A prophet? Yea, I say unto you, and much more than a prophet.

Luke 7:27 This is he, of whom it is written, Behold, I send my messenger before thy face, which shall prepare thy way before thee.

Luke 7:28 For I say unto you, Among those that are born of women there is not a greater prophet than John the Baptist: but he that is least in the kingdom of God is greater than he.

Luke 7:29 And all the people that heard him, and the publicans, justified God, being baptized with the baptism of John.

Luke 7:30 But the Pharisees and lawyers rejected the counsel of God against themselves, being not baptized of him.

One writer -

***God is not slack concerning His promises that He has made to His people in His precious Word. Paul revealed that all the promises of God in Him are yea, and in Him amen, \*\*\* II Corinthians 1:20. God has a plan and a purpose, not only for planet earth, but also for His people. His plan and purpose becomes evident in the ministry of John the Baptist. Scholars believe that John the Baptist's ministry lasted about eighteen months. At the end of John's ministry, John was beheaded, so everyone assumed that John's ministry was over. But John was only the beginning, a forerunner, of the ministry God is raising up on the earth.***

Malachi 3:1 Behold, I will send my messenger, and he shall prepare the way before me: and the Lord, whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to his temple, even the messenger of the covenant, whom ye delight in: behold, he shall come, saith the LORD of hosts.

**B. Think about how great this messenger was.**

**a. Great masses of people flocked out into the wilderness to hear John preach!**

He drew great crowds of people without doing one miracle.

**b. John the Baptist Was a Bold Preacher**

Rich, poor, religious, leader, or sinner—he preached the truth and taught men to repent of their sins and make preparation for their Messiah.

Note: The Pharisees did not like him—just as they did not like Jesus.

It is amazing how those who made their way up the ladder of political corruption did not like it when someone told the truth!

Luke 3:7 Then said he to the multitude that came forth to be baptized of him, O generation of vipers, who hath warned you to flee from the wrath to come?

Luke 3:8 Bring forth therefore fruits worthy of repentance, and begin not to say within yourselves, We have Abraham to our father: for I say unto you, That God is able of these stones to raise up children unto Abraham.

**c. NOTICE HOW JOHN WAS WILLING TO REPROVE KINGS -**

Luke 3:19 But Herod the tetrarch, being reprov'd by him for Herodias his brother Philip's wife, and for all the evils which Herod had done,

Luke 3:20 Added yet this above all, that he shut up John in prison.

Mark 6:17 For Herod himself had sent forth and laid hold upon John, and bound him in prison for Herodias' sake, his brother Philip's wife: for he had married her.

Mark 6:18 For John had said unto Herod, It is not lawful for thee to have thy brother's wife.

Mark 6:19 Therefore Herodias had a quarrel against him, and would have killed him; but she could not:

Mark 6:20 For Herod feared John, knowing that he was a just man and an holy, and observed him; and when he heard him, he did many things, and heard him gladly.

Mark 6:21 And when a convenient day was come, that Herod on his birthday made a supper to his lords, high captains, and chief estates of Galilee;

Mark 6:22 And when the daughter of the said Herodias came in, and danced, and pleased Herod and them that sat with him, the king said unto the damsel, Ask of me whatsoever thou wilt, and I will give it thee.

Mark 6:23 And he sware unto her, Whatsoever thou shalt ask of me, I will give it thee, unto the half of my kingdom.

Mark 6:24 And she went forth, and said unto her mother, What shall I ask? And she said, The head of John the Baptist.

Mark 6:25 And she came in straightway with haste unto the king, and asked, saying, I will that thou give me by and by in a charger the head of John the Baptist.

Mark 6:26 And the king was exceeding sorry; yet for his oath's sake, and for their sakes which sat with him, he would not reject her.

Mark 6:27 And immediately the king sent an executioner, and commanded his head to be brought: and he went and beheaded him in the prison,

Notice how great this messenger was—he was willing to rebuke kings.

And why did he rebuke Herod?

He rebuked him because he divorced his wife to marry his brother's wife.

How sad it is that preachers are not willing to rebuke presidents and politicians today. Instead they water down their message lest they offend.

I wonder what John the Baptist would say today about:

- ABORTION
- HOMOSEXUAL MARRIAGES
- TRANSGENDER RIGHTS

Yet again—the leaders of the nation rejected his message.

**d. He was great because he was willing to defer all glory to Christ.**

John 3:26 And they came unto John, and said unto him, Rabbi, he that was with thee beyond Jordan, to whom thou barest witness, behold, the same baptizeth, and all men come to him.

John 3:27 John answered and said, A man can receive nothing, except it be given him from heaven.

John 3:28 Ye yourselves bear me witness, that I said, I am not the Christ, but that I am sent before him.

John 3:29 He that hath the bride is the bridegroom: but the friend of the bridegroom, which standeth and heareth him, rejoiceth greatly because of the bridegroom's voice: this my joy therefore is fulfilled.

John 3:30 He must increase, but I must decrease.

John 3:31 He that cometh from above is above all: he that is of the earth is earthly, and speaketh of the earth: he that cometh from heaven is above all.

John 3:32 And what he hath seen and heard, that he testifieth; and no man receiveth his testimony.

John 3:33 He that hath received his testimony hath set to his seal that God is true.

John 3:34 For he whom God hath sent speaketh the words of God: for God giveth not the Spirit by measure unto him.

John 3:35 The Father loveth the Son, and hath given all things into his hand.

John 3:36 He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.

### ***Think about His greatness ...***

There was no pride; he was not self-possessive of his ministry and position. He deferred all glory and praise to Christ.

So many seem to be out to magnify themselves and their works.

## ***2. Jesus would come suddenly according to Malachi -***

Malachi 3:1 Behold, I will send my messenger, and he shall prepare the way before me: and the Lord, whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to his temple, even the messenger of the covenant, whom ye delight in: behold, he shall come, saith the LORD of hosts.

NOTE THIS STATEMENT:

..... and the Lord, whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to his temple, even the messenger of the covenant, whom ye delight in: behold, he shall come, saith the LORD of hosts.

One of the outstanding things about our Lord is that He shows up in the temple and takes over. It seemed sudden.

Yet how sudden was it ...

THERE WERE ABOUT 500 years between this prediction and the coming of John the Baptist. Yet the Bible says He will come suddenly?

II Peter 3:8 But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.

II Peter 3:9 The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.

When He suddenly shows up in the temple, we read about Jesus driving out the money changers from the temple.

There comes a time that righteous indignation and anger is appropriate.

John 2:13 And the Jews' passover was at hand, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem,

John 2:14 And found in the temple those that sold oxen and sheep and doves, and the changers of money sitting:

John 2:15 And when he had made a scourge of small cords, he drove them all out of the temple, and the sheep, and the oxen; and poured out the changers' money, and overthrew the tables;

John 2:16 And said unto them that sold doves, Take these things hence; make not my Father's house an house of merchandise.

John 2:17 And his disciples remembered that it was written, The zeal of thine house hath eaten me up.

John 2:18 Then answered the Jews and said unto him, What sign shewest thou unto us, seeing that thou doest these things?

John 2:19 Jesus answered and said unto them, Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.

John 2:20 Then said the Jews, Forty and six years was this temple in building, and wilt thou rear it up in three days?

John 2:21 But he spake of the temple of his body.

John 2:22 When therefore he was risen from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this unto them; and they believed the scripture, and the word which Jesus had said.

There comes a time when we need to take action and turn over the tables of the money changers.

When men desecrate and blaspheme, we need to act and do something!

## ***II. PREDICTIONS OF OUR LORDS COMING - A REBUKE TO THE RELIGIOUS LEADERS:***

Malachi 3:2 But who may abide the day of his coming? and who shall stand when he appeareth? for he is like a refiner's fire, and like fullers' soap:

Malachi 3:3 And he shall sit as a refiner and purifier of silver: and he shall purify the sons of Levi, and purge them as gold and silver, that they may offer unto the LORD an offering in righteousness.

### **WHEN JESUS COMES: WHAT HE WILL DO -**

Jesus came, and for the most part, He was toughest on the Pharisees and Priests. These He rebuked and exposed..

Those who claim to be His ministers are the ones who will receive the greater judgment.

I Peter 4:17 For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God: and if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God?

He shall purify the sons of Levi; purge them like gold.

This is what Jesus did when He exposed the errors of the Scribes and Pharisees:

Matthew 23:1 Then spake Jesus to the multitude, and to his disciples,

Matthew 23:2 Saying, The scribes and the Pharisees sit in Moses' seat:

Matthew 23:3 All therefore whatsoever they bid you observe, that observe and do; but do not ye after their works: for they say, and do not.

Matthew 23:4 For they bind heavy burdens and grievous to be borne, and lay them on men's shoulders; but they themselves will not move them with one of their fingers.

Matthew 23:5 But all their works they do for to be seen of men: they make broad their phylacteries, and enlarge the borders of their garments,

Matthew 23:6 And love the uppermost rooms at feasts, and the chief seats in the synagogues, etc...

### ***III. THE LORD WILL COME BACK TO EARTH LIKE THE LION OF THE TRIBE OF JUDAH; HE WILL PURGE THE NATION AND ALL PEOPLE.***

Malachi 3:4 Then shall the offering of Judah and Jerusalem be pleasant unto the LORD, as in the days of old, and as in former years.

Malachi 3:5 And I will come near to you to judgment; and I will be a swift witness against the sorcerers, and against the adulterers, and against false swearers, and against those that oppress the hireling in his wages, the widow, and the fatherless, and that turn aside the stranger from his right, and fear not me, saith the LORD of hosts.

Malachi 3:6 For I am the LORD, I change not; therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed.

Revelation 19:15 And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God.

Sheep Goat Judgment:

Matthew 25:31 When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory:

Matthew 25:32 And before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats:

Matthew 25:33 And he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left.

Matthew 25:34 Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world:

Matthew 25:35 For I was an hungred, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in:

Matthew 25:36 Naked, and ye clothed me: I was sick, and ye visited me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me.

Matthew 25:37 Then shall the righteous answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungred, and fed thee? or thirsty, and gave thee drink?

Matthew 25:38 When saw we thee a stranger, and took thee in? or naked, and clothed thee?

Matthew 25:39 Or when saw we thee sick, or in prison, and came unto thee?

Matthew 25:40 And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me.

Matthew 25:41 Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels:

#### **IV. A REBUKE TO THE NATION - CONCERNING THEIR NEGLECT OF SERVING THE LORD:**

Malachi 3:7 Even from the days of your fathers ye are gone away from mine ordinances, and have not kept them. Return unto me, and I will return unto you, saith the LORD of hosts. But ye said, Wherein shall we return?

Malachi 3:8 Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings.

Malachi 3:9 Ye are cursed with a curse: for ye have robbed me, even this whole nation.

Malachi 3:10 Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and 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 3:11 And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, and he shall not destroy the fruits of your ground; neither shall your vine cast her fruit before the time in the field, saith the LORD of hosts.

Malachi 3:12 And all nations shall call you blessed: for ye shall be a delightsome land, saith the LORD of hosts.

Malachi 3:13 Your words have been stout against me, saith the LORD. Yet ye say, What have we spoken so much against thee?

Malachi 3:14 Ye have said, It is vain to serve God: and what profit is it that we have kept his ordinance, and that we have walked mournfully before the LORD of hosts?

Malachi 3:15 And now we call the proud happy; yea, they that work wickedness are set up; yea, they that tempt God are even delivered.

#### **1. ISRAEL HAD A PATTERN OF DISOBEDIENCE -**

Malachi 3:7 Even from the days of your fathers ye are gone away from mine ordinances, and have not kept them. Return unto me, and I will return unto you, saith the LORD of hosts. But ye said, Wherein shall we return?

Israel –

Never once kept the Sabbath year.

Never once kept the Year of Jubilee.

Only kept the Feast of Tabernacles once.

Only kept the Passover a few times.

DISOBEYED THE ORDINANCE OF TITHING.

The excuse people use today is, “We are not under the law.”

Yet the law is our schoolmaster, meaning in the new covenant we should do by nature what the law teaches by letter.

We are not to be without the law.

Jesus said if you love me ....

John 14:15 If ye love me, keep my commandments.

I John 5:3 For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous.

I often think that people who use the excuse that they are not under the law just love to make excuses for not doing what the Bible says.

If you read Romans Chapter 2, Paul is rebuking those who were boasting because they kept certain ceremonial laws, like circumcision, thinking that being circumcised made them right with God. NONSENSE. Paul said our righteousness doesn't come by outward ceremonial laws—it comes when we are born again of the Spirit of God. The evidence that we are born again of the Spirit of God is that we do by nature what the law tells us to do.

Philippians 2:12 Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling.

Philippians 2:13 For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.

Malachi 3:7 Even from the days of your fathers ye are gone away from mine ordinances, and have not kept them. Return unto me, and I will return unto you, saith the LORD of hosts. But ye said, Wherein shall we return?

Notice the Lord rebukes the children of Israel for their neglect of keeping His ordinances, which became evident in their giving!

## **2. THE NEGLECT OF GIVING -**

Malachi 3:8 Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings.

Malachi 3:9 Ye are cursed with a curse: for ye have robbed me, even this whole nation.

Malachi 3:10 Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and 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 3:11 And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, and he shall not destroy the fruits of your ground; neither shall your vine cast her fruit before the time in the field, saith the LORD of hosts.

Malachi 3:12 And all nations shall call you blessed: for ye shall be a delightsome land, saith the LORD of hosts.

### **A. To not tithe is to rob God -**

REASON:

Leviticus 27:30 And all the tithe of the land, whether of the seed of the land, or of the fruit of the tree, is the LORD'S: it is holy unto the LORD.

Leviticus 27:31 And if a man will at all redeem ought of his tithes, he shall add thereto the fifth part thereof.

Leviticus 27:32 And concerning the tithe of the herd, or of the flock, even of whatsoever passeth under the rod, the tenth shall be holy unto the LORD.

Leviticus 27:33 He shall not search whether it be good or bad, neither shall he change it: and if he change it at all, then both it and the change thereof shall be holy; it shall not be redeemed.

Leviticus 27:34 These are the commandments, which the LORD commanded Moses for the children of Israel in mount Sinai.

THIS IS WHY WHEN A MAN USES WHAT IS NOT HIS, HE ROBS GOD.

Go and take someone's car without asking for it, and see what happens.

God says you can buy back anything that is His by adding 1/5th to it.

If your tithe is \$10, and you want to use it to pay some bills, now the Lord says that next week give Him \$12.

That is not as bad as a Master Card.

Borrow \$100 from Master Card. Payment is \$10. Be late one month—see what they want.

THEY WILL WANT \$25 and \$35 in late charges. See what they want for a late fee on a mortgage.

THIS IS WHY SO MANY CREDIT CARD COMPANIES OFFER 0% for one year.

Statistics show on an average most people are late on a payment now and then and have to pay the \$25 or \$35 late fees.

Now the question is: How can you rob God if the tithe is not God's?"

You can only rob someone if you take what is not yours.

Therefore, the tithe is God's, and you are not free to do with it what you choose to do.

### ***B. GOD NOT ONLY TELLS US TO TITHE, BUT HE TELLS US HOW TO TITHE -***

So many people give, but they want control of how they give.

They want to give to projects.

They want to give with strings attached.

GOD SAYS GIVE TO THE STOREHOUSE. The storehouse was the place He chose to give as His place of worship. It is the place God chose for you to give your tithe.

OT = Temple.

NT = Local Church.

The OT tithe was given as a burnt offering, offered up; then it was burned.

THE ONLY ONE THAT GOT ANY BENEFIT OUT OF THE OFFERING WAS THE LEVITE, AND THAT WAS THE PAY FOR HIS MINISTRY OR SERVICE.

But even they were neglectful of His offerings, when they did not offer the best of the sheep to the Lord.

### ***C. IF WE GIVE TO GOD IN GOD'S WAY, WE WILL GET GOD'S BLESSING.***

Malachi 3:10 Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and 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 3:11 And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, and he shall not destroy the fruits of your ground; neither shall your vine cast her fruit before the time in the field, saith the LORD of hosts.

Malachi 3:12 And all nations shall call you blessed: for ye shall be a delightsome land, saith the LORD of hosts.

**a. THE LORD SAYS, “BRING THE TITHE TO THE STORE HOUSE ...”**

In the OT economy in the time of Israel, the storehouse was Jerusalem and His OT temple; in the New Testament, the storehouse is God's local church.

Or some would say there is no storehouse today. Then what good is this Scripture? What profit is there in this Scripture for us today?

II Timothy 3:16 All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:

II Timothy 3:17 That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works.

I know many a Christian who does not believe in tithing. In the New Testament church they say we are not under this law, this was just for Israel. I say that is nonsense. What is the application and what is the profit of this Scripture for us today? Is not Malachi 2:10 part of the “all Scripture” mentioned by Paul?

**b. Notice it says, “prove me ... saith the Lord.”**

The Lord says put what I am saying to the test and see if it does not work.

See if when you tithe and give as you should if I don't bless you.

Malachi 3:10 Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and 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.

Notice he says, See if I will not open up the windows of heaven and pour out out a blessing.

There are very few commandments in the Bible with a promise.

The command to honour your father and mother comes with a promise. It is called the first commandment with a promise.

Ephesians 6:1 Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right.

Ephesians 6:2 Honour thy father and mother; which is the first commandment with promise;

It was the great Apostle Paul who said we are not under the law. Why is he quoting the law to the church of Ephesus and saying this command comes with a promise?

God gives us a promise with His command to give. He says He will bless us when we give as He prescribed!

***c. GOD PROMISES TO REBUKE THE DEVOURER IN OUR LIVES WHEN WE GIVE.***

Malachi 3:11 And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, and he shall not destroy the fruits of your ground; neither shall your vine cast her fruit before the time in the field, saith the LORD of hosts.

Malachi 3:12 And all nations shall call you blessed: for ye shall be a delightsome land, saith the LORD of hosts.

Only God can rebuke Satan in our lives.

Satan would like to sift us like wheat.

He can certainly do to us what he did to Job and destroy the fruits of our labour.

We need God's blessing and protection, and He has promised to rebuke Satan in our lives if we are faithful in our giving.

***V. THE REASON PEOPLE NEGLECT SERVING THE LORD:***

Malachi 3:13 Your words have been stout against me, saith the LORD. Yet ye say, What have we spoken so much against thee?

Malachi 3:14 Ye have said, It is vain to serve God: and what profit is it that we have kept his ordinance, and that we have walked mournfully before the LORD of hosts?

Malachi 3:15 And now we call the proud happy; yea, they that work wickedness are set up; yea, they that tempt God are even delivered.

People, look at those who are prospering in this world.

THEY CALL THE PROUD HAPPY.  
THEY CALL THE WICKED GOOD.

What profit is there is serving God they say!!!!

SO THE BEAT GOES ON.

Why do we call the proud happy?

So many people think it vain to serve God.  
They look at coming to church as a waste of time.  
They look at giving to the Lord's work as a waste of time.

In fact, when they place money in the offering plate, they look at it as if they are giving to Pastor Bissol or the members of the church or a club or an organization. They do not give as unto the Lord.

Whatever you do, you need to do as unto the Lord—not as unto men!

Malachi 3:14 Ye have said, It is vain to serve God: and what profit is it that we have kept his ordinance, and that we have walked mournfully before the LORD of hosts?

My question to those who would have this attitude is expressed in this verse:

Malachi 3:14 Ye have said, It is vain to serve God: and what profit is it that we have kept his ordinance, and that we have walked mournfully before the LORD of hosts?

Is there a God in heaven?

If there is a God in heaven, how do you show you love and respect Him?

How can you say it is vain to keep His ordinances if you love and respect Him and want to express your love and respect through your giving?

So when we backslide in heart, we do what this verse says we should not do.

Malachi 3:15 And now we call the proud happy; yea, they that work wickedness are set up; yea, they that tempt God are even delivered.

## **VI. ARE WE NOT IN SIMILAR DAYS TODAY?**

Malachi 3:16 Then they that feared the LORD spake often one to another: and the LORD hearkened, and heard it, and a book of remembrance was written before him for them that feared the LORD, and that thought upon his name.

Malachi 3:17 And they shall be mine, saith the LORD of hosts, in that day when I make up my jewels; and I will spare them, as a man spareth his own son that serveth him.

Malachi 3:18 Then shall ye return, and discern between the righteous and the wicked, between him that serveth God and him that serveth him not.

So many times God's people find themselves in times of discouragement.

WE ARE IN GOOD COMPANY.

As we meditate on this we are reminded ...

II Thessalonians 3:13 But ye, brethren, be not weary in well doing.

Galatians 6:9 And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.

Galatians 6:10 As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith.

Notice what God's remnant often do:

Malachi 3:16 Then they that feared the LORD spake often one to another: and the LORD hearkened, and heard it, and a book of remembrance was written before him for them that feared the LORD, and that thought upon his name.

Malachi 3:17 And they shall be mine, saith the LORD of hosts, in that day when I make up my jewels; and I will spare them, as a man spareth his own son that serveth him.

God's people spoke often to one to another.

What are they talking about?

They are probably talking about what vexes their spirits.

They are probably talking about the falling away.

They are probably talking about seeing the same things that God is seeing and complaining to one another about it.

Are we not vexed as we see our nation being driven into more and more ungodliness? Are we not grieved?

Did not Lot vex his righteous soul from day to day? And how do we know this about Lot? There is a book of remembrance.

Malachi 3:17 And they shall be mine, saith the LORD of hosts, in that day when I make up my jewels; and I will spare them, as a man spareth his own son that serveth him.

God hears the cries of his people and says THEY ARE MINE.

I will spare them. When God's judgment comes He will know how to spare His own—His gems.