

**KEY: This is why Malachi says** you're robbing God because **Leviticus 27:10** ... says "it's" the **LORD'S**.

**Deuteronomy 26 26: 1 – 2; 13 – 15** "And it shall be, when you come into the land which the LORD our God is giving you as an inheritance, and you possess it and dwell in it that you shall take some of the first of all the produce of the ground, which you shall bring from your land that the LORD your God is giving you, and put it in a basket and go to the place where the LORD your God chooses to make His name abide. **Verses 13 – 15** "Then you shall say before the LORD your God: I have removed the holy tithe from my house, and also have given them to the Levite, the stranger, the fatherless, and the widow, according to all Your commandments which You have commanded me; I have not transgressed Your commandments, nor have I forgotten them. I have not eaten any of it when in mourning, nor have I removed any of it for an unclean use, nor given any of it for the dead. I have obeyed the voice of the LORD my God, and have done according to all that You have commanded me. Look down from Your holy habitation, from heaven, and bless Your people Israel and the land which You have given us, just as You swore to our fathers, "a land flowing with milk and honey."

**The Prayer you pray when you give God your tithe** ... "Dear Lord, look down from heaven and bless your people."

**KEY: He's saying in verses 13 – 15** "I've removed the "Holy Tithe" from my house and I've taken "it" to **your** house.

**Matthew Chapter 23: Question** ... If Jesus said to you ... "you ought to tithe " ... **Would You do it? Yes or No.** Verse 23: "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you pay tithe of mint and anise and cummin, and have neglected the weightier matters of the law; justice and mercy and faith. These you ought to have done, without leaving the others undone".

**Jesus said** ... You ought to tithe. **Hebrews 7: 1 – 2** **Salem** = peace. **Jerusalem** = city of peace.

**KEY: Melchizedek = type of Christ;**  
**Hebrews 7: 3 – 8**

**KEY:** I put my tithe into the box mortal man may take it out ... but **Jesus** receives my tithe.

### C. TITHING IS A **BENEFIT.**

**KEY: Tithers say I'm so blessed.** Non-tithers say I **can't afford** to tithe.

**II Chronicles 31: 4 – 7; 10b**

**Conclusion: God allows us to keep 90% and asks us to give 10%. The Church is the = Bride of Christ.** Jesus takes personally "His Wife."

**KEY:** Every time you get paid your telling Jesus how much you **think** of Him; **love** Him, and **think** of His **Wife the Church.**

**KEY: If you pass the "test" you'll be blessed.**  
If you **fail the "test"** your **cursed.**

## First Church of God

February 17, 2013  
Sermon Outline  
Pastor, Robert G. White

### Message Title: "What Test?" Malachi 3:6

#### Introduction:

**God gives you a test every day.**

- When you get paid ... who are we going to **Thank ... Worship ... Honor for the increase?**
- **Malachi 3** (The only place in the Bible where it says ... You can **rob** God!)

**Malachi 3: 6 – 12** (NKJV) <sup>6</sup> For I am the Lord I do not change; Therefore you are not consumed, O sons of Jacob."

**Key: God doesn't change because He is perfect.**

<sup>7</sup> Yet from the days of your fathers you have gone away from My ordinances and have not kept them. Return to Me, and I will return to you. Says the Lord of hosts. But you said, "In what way shall we return?"

**Ordinance** = principle of ordinary behavior.

**"Verse 8** Will a man rob God? Yet you have robbed Me! But you say, 'In what way have we robbed You?' in tithes and offerings. **Verses 9 – 12** You are cursed with a curse, For you have robbed Me, even this whole nation. Bring all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be food in My house, and try (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 such a blessing that there will not be room enough to receive it. And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, So that he will not destroy the fruit of your

ground, Nor shall the vine fail to bear fruit for you in the field.” Says the LORD of hosts; “And all nations will call you blessed, For you will be a delightful land.” Says the Lord of hosts.

**KEY: Malachi is a book about returning to God's Call and God's Call returning to us.**

**Malachi Chapter 1** – is about us; returning to God in our **faith**.  
**Chapter 2** – Returning to God in **family**.  
**Chapter 3** – Returning to God in our **finances**.  
**Chapter 4** – God returning back to **us**.

**KEY:** There is an Old Testament and a New Testament, but there is not an **old** God and a **new** God.

**A. TITHING IS A **test**. Tithe = a tenth part.**

**KEY: The number 10 represents **testing** throughout the Bible.**

**Examples:**

- How many **plaques** were there in Egypt? **10**
- How many **commandments** are there? **10**
- How many **times** did **God test** Israel in the wilderness? **10**
- How many times were **Jacob's wages** changes? **10**
- How many days was **Daniel tested**? **10**
- How many **virgins were tested** in Matthew chapter 25? **10**
- How many **days of testing** are mentioned in revelation? **10**
- How many **disciples** were there? **12**. (Just a test!)

**KEY: God developed tithing to **test us**.**

**The Bible says:** If I tithe, I'm **blessed**. If I don't tithe I'm **cursed**.

**Argument # 1** Question: Can we live anyway we want to as a Christian and suffer no consequences? **No**  
**I Peter 2:24** Jesus bore our sins on the cross.  
**Question:** Have you ever **sinned**? **Yes**

**Matthew 8:17** Jesus bore our sickness.  
**Question:** Have you ever **been sick**? **Yes**

**Argument # 2**

Tithing was under the Law .... I'm not under the law; I'm under **GRACE**, so I don't tithe.  
The **LAW** = moral command of God.

**KEY:** IF “it” was wrong under the law; is it now **right** under grace? IF “it” was right under the law ... is it now **wrong**?

**Matthew 5: 17 – 20 Christ fulfills the Law.**

“Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill. For assuredly, **I say to you**, till heaven and earth pass away, one tittle will be no means pass from the law till all is fulfilled. “Whoever therefore breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches men so, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does and teaches them, he shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven. “**For I say to you**, that unless your righteousness exceeds the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven.

**KEY: The Righteousness of **GRACE** always exceeds the Righteousness of the **LAW**.**

Verses 21 – 22 “You have heard that it was said to those of old, ‘You shall not murder, and whoever murders will be in danger of the judgment.’ **But I say to you** that whoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of judgment.”

**KEY: The Law says** do not **murder**.

**Grace says** do not even be **angry**.

**KEY: Grace Requires **More**.**

**Matthew 5: 27 – 28** “You have heard that it was said to those of old You shall not commit adultery (law). But I say to you that whoever looks at a woman to lust for her had already committed adultery with her in his heart.

**KEY: **The LAW** says don't do it! **GRACE** says don't even think about it. **GRACE** goes further than the **Law**.**

**B. TITHING IS **Biblical**.**

**Genesis 14” 18** “Then Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine; he was the priest of God Most High.”

**KEY: At the “Last Supper” the disciples had **bread and wine**.**

Genesis 14: 19 – 20 “And he blessed him and said: “Blessed be Abram of God Most High, Possessor of heaven and earth; and Blessed be God Most High, who has delivered your enemies into your hand.” And he gave him a tithe of all.

**KEY: This is 500 years before the **LAW**.**

**Genesis 28: 22** “And this stone which I have set as a pillar shall be God's house, and of all that you give me I will surely give a tenth to you.

**KEY: This is 400 years before the **LAW**.**

**Leviticus 17: 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 to the LORD.