

Obedient Giving Part 1

Tithing

Steve Berger March 6, 2016

Giving

- it will take obedient giving for our GC family to fulfill our next assignment

Casting a Vision

- **Habakkuk 2:2**

Write the vision and make it plain on tablets, that he may run who reads it. .

- making the vision clear so we at GC can run with it

Property needed because

- maxed out land, building, parking

Elder and Financial Boards had choice

- ignore the growth and congestion and die a slow death of stagnation — OR
- co-operate with God, facilitate the growth by enlarging the campus
- Aug 2015, after one year negotiating, closed on 107 acres, with a 15,000 sq. ft. house, and including the pastor's house, for \$6.5 million—great deal, very manageable debt until we raise funds to pay it off earlier. The pastor now leases his home from the church.
- enable GC to grow with long-term possibilities, impact for generations

Pictures

- to see the photographs of the property outlines, and to hear specific plans, watch today's sermon on online

Pray — pray, teach, give

- what GC has always done with great success

Teaching... for three Sundays:

- 1) Tithing 2) Free-will offerings 3) Sacrificial giving THEN Good Friday Offering

Giving

- It has been five years since the pastor has taught on the subject of giving

Today — Tithing

- **first 10% to God**
- **1) Priority, 2) History, 3) Adjustments, 4) Promises, 5) Blessing**

Priority

How important is this area of tithing to God?

- 500 verses on prayer and faith
- 2000 verses on money and possessions
- in the Bible — 1/6 of Matthew, Mark, and Luke is about money; 12 of 38 parables about money (nearly 1/3) — per Pastor Jon Courson

Why the priority on money?

- **Matthew 6:21**
For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Our heart follows our treasure

Our heart follows our treasure. If our treasure isn't submitted to God rightly neither will our heart be. God gives us 2,000 verses to keep us in check about where our treasure and hearts are...for those whose **treasure is right and hearts are right**, teaching on **tithing is welcomed**—for those whose **treasure and heart aren't right**, this series is a “the preacher is talking about money” “all the church wants is my money”... **totally missing the point**, and not seeing the opportunity to walk in **greater obedience and blessing with God**.

Heart check... if you are already uptight in your seat, your money might mean more to you than it should... just a thought.

History

- **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 to the Lord.
 - tithe the first 10%; it is His; it is holy
 - some might think there is a loophole — saying, “that’s the law, I’m not under the law...” It is the law, but you must understand that **tithing precedes the law by 500 years!**
- **Genesis 14:18-20**
Then Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine; he was the priest of God Most High. And he [Melchizedek] blessed him [Abram] 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 [Abram] gave him [Melchizedek] a tithe of all.
 - Abram gave a tithe to Melchizedek... King of Peace, Priest of Most High God, who gives Abram bread and wine, blesses Him.

- **Matthew 23:23**

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.

- justice, mercy, faith, AND tithing

- **2 Corinthians 8:5**

And not only as we had hoped, but they first gave themselves to the Lord, and then to us by the will of God.

- tithe to Lord, offering to Paul

The tithe is the Lord's, it is holy to Him.

It was done 500 years before the law, it is in the law.

Jesus confirmed it, and the early church performed it—it is for us today!

For those only under grace—grace does more than the law—go for it!

**The best financial advice anyone can give you as a Christian
is give your first 10% to God—it's His anyway!**

- “If every Church-goer in America were to lose their jobs and apply for public assistance, and be given the minimum of public assisted welfare, and then faithfully tithed out of that – giving in America’s churches would increase by 30%.”¹

Adjustments

- **Malachi 3:6-9**

“For I am the Lord, I do not change; therefore you are not consumed, O sons of Jacob. 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?’ ‘Will a man rob God? Yet you have robbed Me! But you say, ‘In what way have we robbed You?’ In tithes and offerings. You are cursed with a curse, for you have robbed Me, Even this whole nation.”

Doubt, fear, ignorance, selfishness leads to us holding back from God what is rightfully His, by doing so, we rob Him and bring a curse on ourselves... whatever the curse may be—it isn't good.

Good News: the curse can be reversed... here's how... God's Promise!

- **Malachi 3:10**

“Bring all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be food in My house, and try 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 blessing that there will not be room enough to receive it.”

Significant — God says to “try” “prove” “test” Him now in this area of tithing. It's the only time in the whole Bible where God says “test Me and see if I won't come through for you.” — the only time — this issue of tithing is that important to God!

¹ *The Christian Herald*, 1986 (no longer in print)

God's Promise

He'll open the windows of heaven for us and pour out such a blessing that there will not be room enough to receive it — who knows what that might be???

- **Malachi 3:11**

“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.

God rebukes Devourer — “he won’t destroy the fruit of my ground”... that which I have, remains... the enemy isn’t going to be able to steal what I already have.

“the vine won’t fail to bear fruit for me,” — ... that which I am waiting for won’t be aborted.

Think about this — God says “give Me the first 10% of your income, and you can test Me on this, I will...”

- open heaven’s windows and pour out so much blessing, won’t have room for it all
- rebuke the Devourer for your sake
- what is already yours, he can’t devour
- what you are waiting for, he can’t abort

Sick, tired, cursed, stuff devoured; the harder you work the more behind you get —

Reverse the curse and experience blessing — return to Him, returning to tithing, and watch God perform His promise for you!

Make the necessary adjustments — you can't afford not to tithe.

- **Malachi 3:12**

And all nations will call you blessed, for you will be a delightful land,” says the Lord of hosts.

- noticeably blessed

Blessing

- **Luke 6:38**

Give, and it will be given to you: good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be put into your bosom. For with the same measure that you use, it will be measured back to you.

- God will not be mocked; sow sparingly, reap sparingly

- **Proverbs 11:24-25**

There is one who scatters, yet increases more; and there is one who withholds more than is right, but it leads to poverty. The generous soul will be made rich, and he who waters will also be watered himself.

Closing

- **Luke 16:10-11**

He who is faithful in what is least is faithful also in much; and he who is unjust in what is least is unjust also in much. Therefore if you have not been faithful in the unrighteous mammon, who will commit to your trust the true riches?

If we can't be faithful with unrighteous mammon, earthly treasure, how can God trust us with true kingdom riches, authority, power?

How we steward earthly treasure has a direct correlation to Kingdom riches God entrusts to us.

Want more from God, maybe you need to get this area of tithing right.

- **Philippians 4:17**

Not that I seek the gift, but I seek the fruit that abounds to your account.

- Pastor Steve's motive is not for his own benefit, but that GC be blessed

This area of obedient giving is something we must grow in, just like we do in every other area of our spiritual life.

- **2 Corinthians 8:7**

But as you abound in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in all diligence, and in your love for us—see that you abound in this grace also.

Discussion Questions

1. Are you surprised that there are four times as many verses about money, as are on prayer and faith?
2. Matthew 6:12. Where your treasure is, there your heart is. What are some treasures you have had, or do have, that might move God from FIRST place in your resources?
3. Read Malachi 3:6-9. Do you believe this? Has it been proven true in your own life? Or not?
4. How significant do you think it is that Malachi 3:6-9 is the only place in the Bible where God says, "test Me"?
5. Read Malachi 3:11. What "added security" does God add to His promise to bless you?
6. What necessary adjustments do you need to make in your life to tithe / to give more?

March House of Prayer

Join us for the next House of Prayer

Grace Chapel Sanctuary

Tuesday, March 8th — 6:30 p.m.

To submit a prayer request, visit

www.gracechapel.net/prayer