



Restoring Holiness:
The Book of Malachi
Holiness and Worldliness

“**Return** to Me, and I will return to you,” Says the LORD of hosts.” God desires to open the windows of heaven to those who will live committed lives. *Mal 3:7*

Introduction: Giving and serving are two activities in the life of the believer that God uses to measure authentic commitment. And to God—commitment and obedience are always a matter of the heart.

A. Return to Giving *Mal 3:8-12*

1. Robbing God: No one robs God without robbing himself at the same time! *:8-10*
2. The Tithes: The New Testament teaches believers to give systematically, liberally, cheerfully, and as the Lord has prospered them—that is, proportionately. *2 Cor 8:13-14; 9:6-8*
3. Sermon on the Mount *Mat 6:19-21*

Materialism chains the heart to things that are passing away!
Giving frees the heart to bless and be blessed with eternal things!

4. Try it out: God offers a challenge that remains today! Prove (or test) God regarding giving. *:10*
 - a. The key thought here is: Will obedience to God in giving make a difference in your life? The answer is yes! *See :10-12*

B. Return to Serving *Mal 3:13-18*

1. The Wrong Motive in Serving *:13-15*
 - a. Profit was the motive for these people. How will my service benefit me? Rather than how will my service be a blessing to God or to others.
 - b. The Sermon on the Mount *Mat 6:1-4*
2. The Right Motive in Serving *Mal 3:16-18*
 - a. Fear (reverence) for the NAME of God—in other words, simply loving God by loving others is the only real motive in serving. *:16*
 - b. The Good Samaritan *Luke 10:25-36*
 - c. God’s book of remembrance. Not the ‘book of life’ but a journal of God-memories. *Psa 56:8* (God never forgets what we do in His name—He only forgets our sins.)
 - d. The Jewel of God: Literally “unique possession.” God has made Israel His own unique possession *Ex 19:5*. Israel is to be a priestly community that honors and fears the Lord, to be His alone. In the New Testament, *1 Pet 2:9* quotes *Exo 19:5*, applying it to New Testament believers.

Malachi 3:8-18

: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.

:9 You are cursed with a curse, for you have robbed Me, *even* this whole nation.

: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*.

: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;

:12 And all nations will call you blessed, for you will be a delightful land," says the LORD of hosts.

:13 "Your words have been harsh against Me," says the LORD, yet you say, 'What have we spoken against You?'

:14 You have said, 'It is useless to serve God; what profit *is it* that we have kept His ordinance, and that we have walked as mourners before the LORD of hosts?'

:15 So now we call the proud blessed, for those who do wickedness are raised up; they even tempt God and go free.' "

:16 Then those who feared the LORD spoke to one another, and the LORD listened and heard *them*; so a book of remembrance was written before Him For those who fear the LORD and who meditate on His name.

:17 "They shall be Mine," says the LORD of hosts, "On the day that I make them My jewels. And I will spare them as a man spares his own son who serves him."

:18 Then you shall again discern Between the righteous and the wicked, between one who serves God and one who does not serve Him.