

SERIES: "1ST THINGS 1ST – THIS IS WHAT WE DO"

MESSAGE: "WE GIVE"

PASTOR GEORGE WASSON

NOVEMBER 7, 2021

"6I am the LORD, and I do not change. That is why you descendants of Jacob are not already destroyed. 7Ever since the days of your ancestors, you have scorned my decrees and failed to obey them. Now return to me, and I will return to you," says the LORD of Heaven's Armies. But you ask, 'How can we return when we have never gone away?' 8Should people cheat God? Yet you have cheated me! But you ask, "What do you mean? When did we ever cheat you?" 'You have cheated me of the tithes and offerings due to me. 9You are under a curse, for your whole nation has been cheating me. 10Bring all the tithes into the storehouse so there will be enough food in my Temple. If you do,' says the LORD of Heaven's Armies, 'I will open the windows of heaven for you. I will pour out a blessing so great you won't have enough room to take it in! Try it! Put me to the test! 11Your crops will be abundant, for I will guard them from insects and disease. Your grapes will not fall from the vine before they are ripe,' says the LORD of Heaven's Armies. 12'Then all nations will call you blessed, for your land will be such a delight,' says the LORD of Heaven's Armies."
— MAL. 3:6-12, NLT

OBSERVATIONS

1. There is a _____ in these verses (vv. 6-8)
2. There is a _____ in these verses (v. 9)
3. There is a _____ in these verses (vv. 10)
4. There is a _____ in these verses (vv. 11-12)
5. There is a _____ in these verses (vv. 10-12)
6. There is a _____ in these verses (v. 12)

INTERPRETATION

- God _____ about what we do with the resources that He has placed in our hands and He wants us to care too
- The Bible calls this _____ = a whole person response as a faithful disciple of Jesus Christ, caring for and managing all that God has placed in our care

"The purpose of the Old Testament tithe... was to glorify God and recognize Him as the Lord Almighty and as the source of all human blessing... to teach us to put God first in our lives... to

insure that God's work may be fully supplied." [From Gen. 14; Lev. 27; Deut. 14; Mal 3]

WHY DOES GOD CARE?

1. Because He _____ us
2. Because He _____ what's best for us
3. Because He _____ what's best for us

APPLICATION

When we put God first in our giving, it's easier to put Him first in every area of life.

"The standard (in the New Testament) is sacrificial giving." — Dr. Ben Witherington

1. Giving should be _____

"1Now regarding your question about the money being collected for God's people in Jerusalem. You should follow the same procedure I gave to the churches in Galatia. 2On the first day of each week, you should each put aside a portion of the money you have earned." — 1 COR. 16:1-2, NLT

2. Giving should be _____

"6Remember this—a farmer who plants only a few seeds will get a small crop. But the one who plants generously will get a generous crop. 7You must each decide in your heart how much to give. And don't give reluctantly or in response to pressure. 'For God loves a person who gives cheerfully.'" — 2 COR. 9:6-7, NLT

3. Giving should be _____

"Give in proportion to what you have." — 2 COR. 8:11, NLT

"What is proportional giving? It means the more that God blesses you, the more you are to give. That's New Testament grace giving. The more you're blessed, the more you give...The tithe (10%) remains the best and most accurate and most effective guide and standard or Christian giving." To Tithe Or Not To Tithe, Nov. 1990 (various authors)

THE 90-DAY TITHING CHALLENGE. For the next 90 days, commit to giving at least one-tenth of your income to the Lord. At the end of the 90 days, you can either continue tithing, increase your giving, or you can stop. It's as simple as that. You'll never know whether tithing works for you until you try it.