

OVERRULED: God's Portion

(Malachi 3:7-12)

Introduction

A) You've seen them, a well-groomed, slick talking, Scripture-quoting, speaker who tell you that God has promised to prosper everyone that gives generously. They refer to Malachi 3:10 and challenge you to test God by sending a \$ 100, \$ 1000, or more so that God can bless you financially. They talk about financial healing. They talk about financial freedom. They preach a prosperity Gospel and Malachi 3:10 is the epicenter of their teaching.

Prosperity gospel teaching is not Biblical and actually harmful to a believer's walk with God.

In essence, a prosperity promotes greed.

- 1) The Bible never teaches giving in order to get!
(If we love God we will use money, if we love money, we will use God.)
- 2) The Bible teaches that where your treasure is, there your heart will be. The heart is not right.

Today, instead of spending our morning cursing the darkness, we are going to view God's purpose in giving.

B) The tithe is not just a means to supporting the church, but an evidence of a believer's commitment to God and God's claim on the believer's life.

D) Contextualize **OVERRULED** (the series)

E) Contextualize Malachi 3:7-12.

I. The Charge (v. 7-8)

Question: God what right do you have to a part of my income?

Hypothetical: You are a salesperson for a very large company. Your employment agree is a 90%-10% compensation package. You get 90% of all profits. The company gets 10%. In return they will provide office space, training, customers, and inventory. All you must do is sell. No limits.

II. The Curse (v. 9)

- A) Continuing (v. 9a)
- B) Conditional (v. 9b)
- C) Collective (v. 9c)

III. The Command (v. 10)

- A) Portional (v. 10a)
- B) Placed (v. 10a)
- C) Purposeful (v. 10b)
- D) Proving (v. 10c)
(90 day challenge)
- E) Productive (v. 10d)

IV. The Consequence (v. 10)

- A) Protection (v. 11a)

B) Provision (v. 11b)

C) Praise (v. 12)

Conclusion

Generosity principles . . .

- God is generous toward you.
(Selfish people focus on what they don't have, not what God has given.)
- Your money reflects your values.
- Giving begins a change process in you.
- Life goes better for generous people.
- Generosity is not about the money, it's about the heart!!