

Message Summary: Today's message contains a key ingredient when it comes to the health and welfare of God's people. The Lord says in Malachi 3:6-11 that He has established a principle about the tithe (10%) and people can not violate it if they are going to live and enjoy life. To obey this principle is to experience untold blessings and to violate it is to experience great difficulty until you come to terms with it. Have you ever obeyed God while you were afraid to do what He said? The Word of God promises your future will flourish once you've removed the curse from your finances.

Removing the Curse from your Finances

Malachi 3:6-11

7 SIGNIFICANT TRUTHS IN RELATIONSHIP TO THE TITHE:

Malachi 3:6-11

- 1. God does not change. v.6**
- 2. God's principles do not change. v.7**
- 3. To obey God is to return to these principles. v.7**
- 4. To spend God's tithe for our use is the same as robbery. v.8**
- 5. Misappropriation of the tithe is what invokes the curse. v.9**
- 6. Obedience results in phenomenal blessings. v.10**
- 7. Obedience insures God's personal protection. v.11**

BIBLICAL STATEMENTS CONCERNING "FIRST THINGS":

- 1. God says, "*I am FIRST*".**
Isaiah 41:4; Isaiah 44:6; Exodus 20:3
- 2. Give to God FIRST.**
1 Kings 17:9-16; Luke 12:31-32; Matthew 6:33
- 3. God says the FIRST THINGS are HIS.**
Exodus 13:1-3; Exodus 13:12,13
- 4. God says the FIRST THINGS are HOLY.**
Exodus 23:19; Leviticus 23:10; Leviticus 27:28-30
- 5. FIRST THINGS are to be CONSUMED (destroyed).**
Joshua 6:17-19; 7:10-12; Deuteronomy 26:1-4,12-15

Pastor Paul Harmon
Hope Chapel Huntington Beach
March 7th, 2021

LifeGroup QUESTIONS: *All LifeGroups are on break until March 15th*

BEGIN IT- (5mn) Praise God in song & open in prayer.

OPEN IT- (10mn) What are some things you'd never give up, no matter how much money you were offered for them?

EXPLORE IT- (60min) Read Malachi 3:6-11 Using your sermon notes and outline to answer the following questions:

1. In 7 SIGNIFICANT TRUTHS IN RELATIONSHIP TO THE TITHE: Recall all seven points, one at a time and share what you understood about each truth. Take time to answer questions that may come up among your group.
2. BIBLICAL STATEMENTS CONCERNING "FIRST THINGS": #1) What is God wanting us to know when He declares "I am First"? #2) Why would God be so demanding to ask us to "give to Him First"? #3) If "First Things belong to God", is it still stealing from God if we keep it? Why? #4) What does Holy mean? (Lev. 27:30) #5) What was the word in Hebrew that means – "devoted to destructions"?
3. Finally, how shall a person remove the curse from their finances?
4. In Malachi 3:10, how does God describe His response to someone who has tithed into the storehouse? What is He saying to you?

APPLY IT- (15mn) How can you remind yourself of God's generosity the next time you are tempted to hold back your tithe? Pray for those still fearful about their finances and tithing.