

Malachi A Prophet of Jesus

The book of Malachi says 3 things about “tithes and offerings”

1. You “rob God” if you don’t do them.
2. If you do them “He will pour out a blessing.”
3. If you do them “He will rebuke the devourer.”

Many Christian churches teach (frequently and often!) that this is a reference to giving money to the church.

This is absolutely, Biblically wrong.

Someone who teaches this has no understanding of what Israel was doing in the Old Covenant.

“Tithe” was the amount of the sin offering.

It’s as simple as that.

“Tithe” was the number of animals and crops that God asked to be offered to Him.

Why?

To forgive sin.

For the life of the flesh *is* in the blood: and I have given it to you upon the altar to make an atonement for your souls: for it *is* the blood *that* maketh an atonement for the soul. (Leviticus 17:11)

Israel, quite obviously did not have the blood of Jesus at the cross to forgive their sin. They had to take certain specific herd animals and crops, and “offer” them to God.

This meant they destroyed them.

“Offering” something to God means that you destroyed it--it died in the earth--it became Gods’ possession.

Jesus called Himself everything that was tithed in the old covenant.

Jesus called Himself blood and meat and wine and bread and oil--He was called “the lamb of God that takes away the is of the world” by John the baptist.

Jesus is the sin offering in the new covenant.

Jesus was destroyed at the cross, He was offered to God the Father, so we can live.

The new covenant says plainly that we do not need ot make sin offerings..

Now where remission of these *is*, *there is* no more **offering** for **sin**.
(Hebrews 10:18)

This eliminates the practices of “tithes and offerings” that the old covenant describes.

However--the Bible says that all scripture is useful for study and understanding..

All scripture *is* given by inspiration of God, and *is* profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:
(2Timothy 3:16)

The only way you can truly appreciate the book of Malachi is to understand what the tithes and offerings were, and what they ARE to us Christians in the new covenant.

The tithes and offerings are the cross.

The tithes and offerings, for us new covenant believers, is the blood and body of Jesus at Calvary.

The offering that saves us.

But also the offering that “rebukes the devourer”.

For it is the blood of Jesus that rebukes Satan. Israel, in the old covenant did not have Christ’s blood at the cross, but God honored their representation, their “shadow” of what Christ would do. (the book of Hebrews calls the old covenant a shadow of the new)

So, if we understand the book of Malachi as a prophetic book (for us Christians) and understand that “tithes and offerings” are the blood of Jesus at the cross, then we see the prophecy....

“the *tithe* rebukes the devourer”

“The *blood of Christ*--rebukes the devourer.”

Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and **blood**, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the **devil**; (Hebrews 2:14)

Now let’s look at the other part of the prophecy Malachi is speaking about...

“blessings come from the tithe.”

Simple,

Again let’s substitute our new covenant understanding.

Jesus work on the cross is the source of our blessings.

The grace of God--the free gift--gives us salvation, healing, deliverance, and prosperity--"blessing" from God.

We are saved by grace, a gift--and NOT by works (certainly not by giving money to the leaders of the church so they can build us a nice building to worship in!). But this grace that Jesus won on the cross gives us all our blessing--all our prosperity.

Any arguments there?

But what about the last part of Malachi's prophecy?

"If you don't' tithe, you rob God"

What does this mean to the Christian?

It's a very very important message (and once again it has nothing to do with money giving!)

The book of Malachi is addressed to the priests of Israel. In the old covenant, only the Levites were allowed to minister, to serve God, to handle the offering, the blood that saves.

In the new covenant, all believers are meant to be priests..

Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy **priesthood**, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ. (1Peter 2:5)

But ye *are* a chosen generation, a royal **priesthood**, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light: (1Peter 2:9)

We are all meant to have a ministry--to serve God.

We are all meant to share the Gospel.

We are all meant to minister the blood that saves.

We are all meant to minister the cross to the world.

We are all meant to minister the offering--to tell people that Jesus is the offering, His blood saves, "makes atonement for the soul".

So, the prophecy that Malachi is speaking of, is the fact that if, we as new covenant believers, do not minister the Gospel--we "rob God."

How do we rob God?

The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that **all** should come to **repentance**. (2Peter 3:9)

God wants everyone to be saved.

But if Christians do not carry out the ministry that He has given them, God will be robbed of the souls He desires to be in his kingdom.

In other words if we do not fulfill the ministry the Lord has given each of us, people go to hell.

God is robbed.

Malachi is a prophet. He gives some very truthful blessings and understandings of who Jesus is, and he gives us a warning.

I believe that turning the prophets words into a money giving system, shortchanges him and God and leaves us short of understanding the fullness of what Jesus has done. And, perhaps most importantly, ignores the fullness of what our responsibility ought to be in God.

We rob God if we do not minister the Gospel.