

## **FAITH & MONEY: TITHE**

As preached on Sunday, February 9<sup>th</sup>

**Read:** Malachi 3:6-12

1. Our text opens this week with a conversation between God and the people of Israel. What is the nature of that conversation?
2. In your opinion, do you feel that those who are being addressed by God are responding honestly, or “playing dumb” regarding God’s charge against them? Why?
3. In what way are the people “robbing” God? Have you ever thought of neglecting to give faithfully as robbing God?
4. What does the word “tithe” mean? When was the practice of tithing instituted? (see Leviticus 27:30)
5. What was the tithe used for? (see Nehemiah 12:44-47 & Deuteronomy 26:12) How is this similar to the use of the tithe by a local church in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century?
6. On Sunday we discussed the concept of “firstfruits.” How does firstfruits relate to tithing? How does God feel when His people offer him something other than firstfruits? (see Malachi 1:6-8)
7. In vv.10-12, God reiterates the command to tithe and adds, “Test me in this.” Why does God say this? What does he promise will happen if we test him in this way? Have you ever experienced this yourself?
8. There are some who claim that the tithe is an Old Testament command that is no longer binding. Is there biblical support for this claim? What does Jesus say about tithing? About giving?