

Malachi 3:6-18 The Value of God

***Our value of God is identified by our lifestyle**

=>Nothing reveals more about us than money

I. The call to Return to God

- A. People were separated from God
 - 1. God was not being honored (1:6-8)
 - 2. God was not being feared (3:5)
- B. God calls people to return
 - 1. Repeated actions
 - 2. Return refers to a relationship
- C. God does not change (Praise!)

II. The Conditions of returning to God

- A. Requirement: "Full" tithe
 - 1. Only brought partial and inconsistent
 - 2. Brought without the idea of worship
- B. Tithing is a command
 - 1. Leviticus 27:30 = bring a 10th of the crops, etc.
 - 2. Numbers 18:21-32 = Tithes given to Levites who share with the priests
 - 3. Deuteronomy 12:5-18: 14:22-29 = Share with others as an act of worship
- C. God's promise
 - 1. There were cursed
 - 2. There will be food in the storehouse
 - 3. Test me
 - 4. God protects and provides

=>2 Reasons we don't tithe

 - a. We don't trust God will provide (enough)
 - b. We don't think about God often enough

III. The Conviction of Following God

- A. Lost values
 - 1. Words against God
 - 2. What value is in following God?
 - 3. Evildoers prosper and evade God and His judgment
- B. Those who fear God
 - 1. Made a commitment
 - 2. The LORD claimed them
 - 3. They became distinct (instead of extinct)
- C. Standards are kept by values
 - 1. Morals reflect values
 - 2. Decisions reveal values
- D. Eternal Destiny
 - i. Dangerous
 - ii. Deeds of ungodliness
 - iii. Judgment is already reserved

IV. Live it Out

- A. Are you concerned about how God will react to your life decisions?
- B. Are you saying, “No” to God’s standard or the world’s?
- C. What is your practice of tithing?
 - 1. When do you give? (consistently)
 - 2. How much? (Your amount or God’s)

=>Trusting God can be scary at first like a high ropes course.

V. Offering

- A. How much does Frost Baptist use for missions?
- B. How does the SBC use the Cooperative Program funds?