

## SERMON – In God we T.R.U.S.T. – Test God & See – Malachi 3:8-12

T – Treasure

R – Reaping & Sowing

U – Unsearchable Riches

S – Stewarding God's Gifts

T – Test God & See

**Malachi 3:10 – “Bring the full tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. And thereby put me to the test, says the Lords of hosts, if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you a blessing until there is no more need.”**

What does it mean to test God? It means to put our trust in God into action by responding to Him with faith and obedience!

What does it mean to **“bring the full tithe into the storehouse”**? It meant that God's people, under the Old Covenant, were to bring 10% of their grain to the Temple, so that the needs of the Levites, & others, would be supplied.

Tithing met specific needs in God's economy... but at the same time it met the need of teaching all of God's people how to steward God's resources!

Some say that “tithing” is only an Old Testament commandment to Israel... There is some truth to that... but that doesn't remove the principle behind it, or the need for God's people today to put their treasure where their mouth is!

If we say we believe God... Trust God... Love God... Love our neighbor... Pursuing God's Kingdom... Living for His glory... Seeking heavenly treasure... How we use our money will either confirm, or deny, what we say we believe!

What we do know about what God's Word calls the Church to, is the practice of generosity and sacrificial giving! How that relates to the Old Testament “tithe” is up for debate... **But what we give, & how we give, matters to God!**

You've heard a lot of words from me in this series on T.R.U.S.T. As we wrap up this series, let's hear from a couple church members about how their trust in God has been put into action in their giving back to the Lord in their “tithes and offerings!” Jim Niedermyer & Brian Coyne

1) What was your first experience with giving back to God in tithes & offerings? (watching parents, giving as a child, first church encounter, etc.)?

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2) What, or who, really impacted your understanding of, and response to, God's call to give faithfully onto the Lord, and His work?

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3) Where did your journey with stewarding God's money begin, and how has your thinking and practice changed over the years?

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4) The passage of Scripture we read at the beginning in Malachi, speaks of “Testing God” in this area of “bringing the full tithe into the storehouse...” Have you experienced this in your life, a time of testing God to see if your obedience to Him will result in His faithfulness to bless you?

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**“If we can trust God to forgive our sins, to save us from the consequences of sin, if we can trust Him w/our eternity, why can't we trust him w/our wealth?”**

5) Any last words of encouragement, or challenge, to the congregation about “Trusting in God” in this area of financial stewardship?

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**“Giving transcends tithe, transform hearts, releases burdens, restores hope!”**  
What might God be calling you to in response to what you have heard today, and throughout this series? In what way(s) do you need to put your trust in God into action? \_\_\_\_\_

**In God we can trust!** Not b/c I say so but b/c He says so! “Test God & see!”

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1) What was your \_\_\_\_\_ with giving back to God in tithes & offerings? (watching parents, giving as a child, first church encounter, etc.)?

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2) \_\_\_\_\_ really impacted your understanding of, and response to, God's call to give faithfully onto the Lord, and His work?

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