

October 12, 2008

"The Offering Of Righteousness"

Malachi 3:6-10

Malachi's theme is about returning to God"

In Chapter One – Returning to God in our faith.

In Chapter Two – Returning to God in our family.

In Chapter Three – Returning to God in our finances.

In Chapter Four – God returning to us.

I. Arguments offered.

A. Believers are free from the curse of sin.

B. Tithing is Old Testament, therefore, the law no longer applies.

"Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill. For assuredly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, one jot or one tittle will by no means pass from the law till all is fulfilled. Whoever therefore breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches men so, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does and teaches them, he shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven. For I say to you, that unless your righteousness exceeds the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven." (Matthew 5:17-20)

II. God's grace exceeds the law.

"You have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not murder, and whoever murders will be in danger of the judgment.' But I say to you that whoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment. And whoever says to his brother, 'Raca!' shall be in danger of the council. But whoever says, 'You fool!' shall be in danger of hell fire... You have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not commit adultery.' But I say to you that whoever looks at a woman to lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart." (Matthew 5:21-22; 27-28)

A. Jesus says that grace requires more than the law.

B. Tithing is biblical. "It's in the Bible."

C. Tithing has a purpose.

"And you shall eat before the Lord your God, in the place where He chooses to make His name abide, the tithe of your grain and your new wine and your oil, of the firstborn of your herds and your flocks, that you may learn to fear the Lord your God always." (Deut. 14:23)

III. God's command brings personal benefit.

"Moreover he commanded the people who dwelt in Jerusalem to contribute support for the priests and the Levites, that they might devote themselves to the Law of the Lord." (2 Chron. 31:4)