



**God's Blueprint for Generous Families
Malachi 3:8-10
February 5, 2017**

Introduction:

Family stewardship and family generosity are as important as any element of the family we have covered thus far. However, the majority of families across America commit financial suicide every week/month when they receive their paycheck because they never honor God in their giving. In other words, the average American Christian family does not tithe.

Key thoughts for today's message:

- As the pastor and leader of Clements Church, it is my desire to lead us to be a generous people first at home; and for that same spirit of generosity at home to spill over into our three campuses in Athens and Huntsville.
- I am praying that the membership of our church will one day realize that "passing the plate" is as spiritual as preaching the sermon.
- Generous churches are led by generous leaders. Pastors, deacons, and key leaders must set the example for the membership to follow. Consequentially, if the leaders are not practicing the basic biblical principle of stewardship, then we cannot expect our followers to do any different.

Three prayers concerning today's message:

1. That people who do not have a relationship with Jesus Christ will be saved as a result of being on this campus today.
2. To encourage all those who currently obey the Lord in tithing, to understand the benefit of giving tithes and offerings.
3. To encourage the members of the Clements family who are saved (if you are not saved, I am not talking to you), who are not currently tithing (and that is probably a good number of us), to begin to give Jesus your tithe. The word tithe simply means one-tenth of your gross income to the Lord.

I believe one of the greatest lessons a parent can teach their children is the value of biblical tithing.

I. Our God Expects Tithing from His People

Malachi 3:10a (NKJV) Bring all the tithes into the storehouse...

Deuteronomy 14:22-23 (TLB) You must tithe all of your crops every year. ²³Bring this tithe to eat before the Lord your God at the place he shall choose as his sanctuary; this applies to your tithes of grain, new wine, olive oil, and the firstborn of your flocks and herds. The purpose of tithing is to teach you always to put God first in your lives.

Proverbs 3:9 (NKJV) Honor the LORD with your possessions, and with the first fruits of all your increase.

1 Corinthians 16:2 (TLB) On every Lord's Day each of you should put aside something from what you have earned during the week, and use it for this offering. The amount depends on how much the Lord has helped you earn. Don't wait until I get there and then try to collect it all at once.

II. Our God Explains Tithing to His People

Malachi 3:10b (NKJV) Bring all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be food in My house...

Three needs at Clements:

- 1. Our Jerusalem needs**
- 2. Our Judea and Samaria needs**
- 3. Our Global needs**

III. Our God Exalts Tithing to His People

Malachi 3:10 (NKJV) Bring all the tithes into the storehouse, That there may be food in My house, And try Me now in this," Says the LORD of hosts, "If I will not open for you the windows of heaven And pour out for you such blessing That there will not be room enough to receive it.