



# RESOLVED SERIES

**Sermon Title:** "Our Unchanging God-Part 2"

**Speaker:** Bauer Evans

**Text:** Malachi 3: 6-12

## Main Point

In times of uncertainty, tithing teaches us to treasure Christ and put God's promises to the test.

## Points

Grace is our only hope when we confront personal unfaithfulness

Tithing teaches the people of God some important lessons:

1. Tithing teaches us that God owns everything
2. Tithing teaches us to worship GOD with *all* of our hearts
3. Tithing teaches us to trust the LORD for His continual provision
4. Tithing teaches us to test the LORD to keep his promises
5. Tithing teaches us to treasure Christ

## Quotes

*"Repentance means turning from as much as you know of your sin to give as much as you know of yourself to as much as you know of your God, and as our knowledge grows at these three points so our practice of repentance has to be enlarged." -J.I. Packer, Keep in Step with the Spirit, page 87*

*"Giving God a tenth of our income does not deny that all of our money is God's. It proves that we believe it. Tithing is a like a constant offering of the first fruits of the whole: the tenth is yours O Lord in a special way because all of it is yours in an ordinary way." -John Piper*

*"15 percent of everything Christ said relates to this topic - more than His teachings on heaven and hell combined. Why did Jesus put such an emphasis on money and possessions? Because there's a fundamental connection between our spiritual lives and how we think about and handle money. We may try to divorce our faith and our finances, but God sees them as inseparable." -Randy Alcorn*

## Application

1. Re-read Malachi 3:6-12
2. Malachi tells the story of Judah's unfaithfulness to the LORD and God's relentless pursuit of them. This OT book teaches that Grace is our only hope when we are confronted with our own personal unfaithfulness to the Lord. God teaches us how to change by first putting our hope in His grace alone:

Is there an area of your life where God has revealed you have been unfaithful to the Lord?

Why is *so* hard to admit that to God and to others?

How does putting your hope in the grace of God *first* begin to empower you to make lasting steps of change?

Explain.

3. Tithing is giving a tenth. How is tithing different in principle and in practice from the charitable giving that characterizes the culture and increasingly the evangelical church at large?
4. Tithing teaches us that God owns everything. We are stewards or managers of what belongs to him. When it comes to money or possessions, do you ever struggle with an owner's mentality? How would 'returning' to a stewards mentality free from you from worry and selfishness?
5. Tithing teaches us to worship God with all of our lives. Yet in times of uncertainty, "money and possessions always compete for Lordship in our lives." Why do you think that is?
6. Tithing teaches us to test the Lord in his promises? What specific promises does God make to His people in this passage? Do you think they apply today? Why is it easier sometimes 'trust the Lord' with our eternal salvation and not with our money?
7. Tithing teaches us to treasure Christ and in turn may draw unbelievers to behold Christ's glory in our lives. How does tithing teach you to treasure Christ above all earthly goods and pleasures? How does giving at the level of the tithe make a statement to our unbelieving world during this time of economic uncertainty?

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~Thank you~

