

And One More Thing: Concerning Money

Core Group Discussion Guide

August 5, 2018

Central Point:

This series is a series of messages that are close to my heart for the church. This first message is a message born out of questions by a number of people about what I think God says about tithing. I have preached on giving and stewardship many times, but I will admit to holding back some because I had trouble getting by the fact that my understanding of God's word can appear self-serving. (I benefit financially when people tithe.) This obstacle no longer exists and I would like to exhort the church a biblical approach to how God, worship, and our tithes are meant to interact together.

Texts:

- 1 Timothy 6:17-19
- 1 Corinthians 16:1-2
- Malachi 3:6-12
- Matthew 23:23
- Proverbs 3:9-10

Questions:

1. What stood out to you from the message?
2. Read Malachi 3:10 – What types of blessings have you seen come from tithing? How does God's promise counter fear or apprehension we might have about tithing? Why do you think God cares so much about what we do with our money?
3. Read Psalm 24:1 – Everything on earth is God's, which means we are not owners, but managers of all we have. How can we tell if we are acting like owners or managers?
4. Read Proverbs 3:9-10 – What might it look like for a believer to honor God with the "firstfruits" of the harvest today?

Optional Questions

5. It has been said that our check books reveal our values and priorities. Do you think that statement is true? Why or why not? (Matthew 6:21)
6. What attitudes or circumstances are the greatest challenges to us living generously?
7. Thinking about God's message through Malachi to test him - How long would an appropriate time of "testing" God with a percentage of our income? (Malachi 3:6-12)