

The Whole Church #24 – Grace #7 – Giving 2

AT Snacks-- August 18, 2024

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Monday:

If you weren't here last week, I think it's really important that you go to Facebook and get access to last week's message, so you can get caught up. I can guarantee you that if you haven't been here in the last years, what we're talking about giving under grace, you have never heard before. When you hear what we talk about today, it's going to challenge you in some areas.

From a legalistic standpoint, in Malachi 3, "*Will a man rob God*", is put out there all the time in the Bible Belt, in normal, traditional Christianity, to keep people under condemnation so they'll give. But you're not under the law anymore.

You're now under grace, and so you are not robbing God; but if you're not obedient in your giving, you could be robbing yourself. It's simple: pay attention, embrace the truth, and you and the Lord, wrestle with it on how you walk it out.

Tuesday:

There is a lot of controversy out there over grace, and the people who aim their accusations at grace sometimes have a leg to stand on. So we need to look at and pay attention to what they are saying, and see if we don't fall over in the category of how they have criticized us.

- They say that grace people get too casual with sin. We don't want to be casual with sin and we don't want to under-emphasize this thing of walking with Jesus.
- Get complacent in our spiritual life. So, let's not get complacent.
- A lack of personal transformation. We don't need to take that grace in vain, but be a good steward of the grace of God, and walk this thing out into maturity.
- Avoiding the sacrificial life of sacrificing other things for the sake of following Jesus, and just getting irresponsible under grace. They have a good argument. Let's not find ourselves getting lazy and compromising where grace is concerned.

Most believers want to keep us tethered to the law, and those who teach and preach a mixture of law and grace aren't preaching grace at all. **An accurate understanding of grace always leads to less sin. It never leads to more sin.**

I don't do sermons. I do the best I can to make the word clear, so we can make it understandable and really practical, so you leave here not just with some theory about God, but something that you can sink your teeth into so you can walk out there knowing how to apply it to your life.

If anybody ought to be awake, you ought to be awake. Awake to the things of God, paying attention to the things that God is saying and doing to you and whispering to you in the night

time, in the daytime, and as He leads you and guides you along.

Wednesday:

You can't totally appreciate grace unless you look at it and compare it to the law. You don't know how good of a deal you have under grace until you look at how you would have had it under the law. It's a glaring difference!

Please read Deuteronomy 28:1-14. This passage truly helps to set the tone for the next portion of this word.

God is giving instructions to the children of Israel, so that they will be in a place where God could bless them extravagantly. He wants to bless you extravagantly as well. Deut. 28:2 says, "*These blessings shall come upon you and overtake you, because you obey the voice of the Lord your God*".

Here is another good one; Deut. 28:13, "*The Lord will make you the head and not the tail. You shall be above only and not beneath or below*". To be the head and not the tail, which just means you are in control of your spiritual life.

As the people of God, we should not be the tail stuck along somewhere back in the move of God, way back there somewhere, but on the front edge of what God is doing.

We have worked extremely hard around here to keep it real and to have something here that God could be really, really proud of and that His full blessing could be on this house.

How about one more scripture out of Deuteronomy. Verse 12, "*The Lord will open to you His good treasure, the heavens, to give the rain to your land in its season, and to bless all the work of your hand. You shall lend to many nations, but you shall not borrow*".

To be the lenders and not the borrowers. What a concept! That's what was God's plan. He's laid out an extensive economic plan that's pretty simple, that, if we comply with His plan, all these blessings of God will come upon you.

Thursday:

Now, you are not under the legalistic requirement of the law, because the law keeper, the Holy Spirit has done it. Jesus fulfilled the law for us. Because of this, we are curse-free under the New Covenant.

When you get the revelation of how good God has been to you, even when you haven't been good, it causes you to want to do good, to be obedient to God. That's what ought to happen. You get presented with truth. The Spirit of God wakens your mind to that truth, and then you and the Holy Spirit have to deal with that truth.

In Malachi 3:8 says, "*Will a man rob God*"? In most places, this scripture is taught from a legalistic standpoint, condemnation, coercion, making people feel bad so they'll give more. We don't do that around here.

The tithe is 10%, no more, no less. It's the first and best portion of a harvest or income that is given to God as an act of worship, gratitude and acknowledgment of His provision. The concept is rooted in the Old Testament and holds both practical and spiritual significance. The tithe is given first, and it activates the supernatural.

Tithing is like a seed. The seed can't bear any fruit until you plant it. Try it out and see if God doesn't bless you beyond what you give. He's just going to do it.

The tithe is a 10% confession that everything belongs to God. If we take the position that we need to be a good steward of everything that God's given us, we'll start to grow into maturity.

The tithe was used exclusively, only for the support of the Ministry and the poor. Like in the Old Testament, the Levites didn't have any inheritance in the land. The tithe was for the Levites, and God said the Levites were His. In the 21st century, it's also to support the ministry. Better yet, those who are doing the ministry.

The offering is over and above the tithe. It's not a first fruits offering, it's a free will offering. You give as you purpose in your heart. You give as the Lord quickens your heart. You give to a need, or to a person. It's a matter of your own discretion.

Offerings that come into the church cover things like general expenses, church insurance, upkeep, the utilities, the building fund. We have 100 acres right here on Interstate 40 to take care of. I'm just giving you some guidelines that'll set you free from the world's economic system and get you to a place where you don't have to worry about your money all the time.

Your offering could be for someone here, or for someone or something out there. Whatever, if you don't try it, you'll never know it to be true. You'll never get the revelation.

Friday:

If you are not a giver, you will never understand or have a revelation of: it's more blessed to give than receive. Many, if not most, will never give it a try. They get apprehensive about it, because money's tight. It's hard to make a living. If you're not careful, you get really closed off and get tight with your money.

You cannot convince a giver not to give! Can't do it. Someone who's put it to the test. You can't talk them out of it. You can't bargain them out of it. They are going to give anyway. They've tested the Lord and found it to be one of the great secrets of the kingdom.

The word about being a good steward or stewardship has kind of taken on the mindset for us to be extra cautious with our resources, even to the point of being stingy with God. I agree that you need to be careful, but God isn't looking for people who hoard it. God is looking for people who will give.

Stewardship from a kingdom standpoint is the responsible management and care for the resources, gifts and responsibilities entrusted to us by God; also, acknowledging that all of that belongs to Him, and recognizing that we are caretakers of His creation and the advancement of His kingdom.

Giving is an essential part of the nature of the Father. The more you get to be like Jesus, the more

you're giving will be a reflection that of Jesus. The more you are conformed into His image in a genuine way, the more generous and giving you will be, just like He is.

Luke 6:38 says, "*Give and it will be given to you, good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will it be put into your bosom. For with the same measure that you use, it will be measured back to you*". You are the lightning rod in this passage. You're the one. It's not God Who causes that to happen.

You give in a generous way, God's going to bless you in a generous way. You sow sparingly, you reap sparingly. You want to sow bountifully if you're going to get a good return. This is not rocket science.

Giving activated the supernatural. It's a natural act with supernatural results. We don't give to get, although it does kind of work that way. You give and it's given to you. But that's not the motive by which you give. We give because it's the correct thing to do.

We believe that the Holy Spirit is good enough at His job that you and Him can do business on any of these things that we talk about, and you can come to some kind of sensible, grown up, mature conclusion as to what you should do with the truth that you receive.

Saturday:

The New Covenant storehouse is the church. That's where the tithe should go.

Please read Malachi 3:8-12. This scripture will set the tone for the rest of this message.

You are hearing this because God is trying to move you, some of you, from a place of complacency and being a spectator to being a mover and shaker and player in the Kingdom of God. This is an adventure like you have never experienced. That's what God is calling you to do.

In Malachi 3:10, it says, "*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 a blessing that there will not be room enough to receive it*". What do you do with this kind of blessing? He blesses you with abundance, so you will have more to give. That's why He gives you extra, so you'll have more to give.

God spoils the plans and assignments of the enemy against you when you get obedient. When you get in your giving, you get return on what you gave. At the same time, He's binding up and rebuking the devourer for your sake, so the enemy can't destroy the fruit of your ground. The enemy would love to destroy and disrupt your plans for the future, but as you are obedient, those things come to full fruition.

The Lord will use you as an example to others for what being obedient with your resources can bring about.

Giving can really be hard at first. So here's one of the things the Lord showed me years ago, to break that off. Give away something that's important to you. I've see that happen. This breaks your unhealthy attachment to things.

It's just like the Father to teach you the truth about giving when you are in a place where you don't think you can do it. He will just do you that way. So He can pull you up from where you're

at in your financial situation. That's what He wants to do.

There is no adventure like the adventure that I'm talking to you about. It has everything. It has good, bad, danger, suspense, enemy attacks, surprises around every corner, seeing God come through in ways where there as no way. But, OH MAN, it's nothing compared to being in it. It's nothing compared to doing it.