

Welcome

READ MALACHI 3:6-12

Benjamin Franklin - "Money never made a man happy yet, nor will it. The more a man has, the more he wants. Instead of filling a vacuum, it makes one."

I. THE PURPOSE OF MONEY

What is the biblical purpose of Money? Money, and every other resource, expresses the love that God has for us and the world, and, in return, the love we have for God and for the world.

Randy Alcorn (author of *Managing God's Money: A Biblical Guide* and *Money, Possessions, and Eternity*) - "Grasping God's ownership of everything is the foundation of a biblical theology of money."

This is why God says here in Malachi 3:8: Will man rob God? Yet you are robbing me.

Douglas Stuart (Malachi, Commentary) - They were disobeying the fundamental Mosaic law that God gets the best as his possession. The Old Testament perspective on all wealth is that the best and first of it never has belonged to its temporary human controller ("owner"), but always has belonged to God. The firstfruits of one's labors, the firstborn of one's flocks, and the best quality of one's possessions are God's innate property. Like shop clerks or bank tellers who handle money not their own, the Israelites handled wealth not their own for a time, and were obligated to hand it over to God on demand, both in the form of the yearly tithe as well as the periodic temple offering.

It all belongs to God. So, it fosters a completely different approach to money. How are we to see money?

A _____ to be Received with Gratitude

Matthew 6 - Give us today our daily bread.

A _____ to be Stewarded with Wisdom

Randy Alcorn - "Faithful money-managing stewards act in the owner's interests, regularly consulting him to understand and implement his investment priorities. Search the Scriptures, seek God's wisdom, then give, save, and spend his money well, and thereby love him, your family, neighbors, and a needy world."

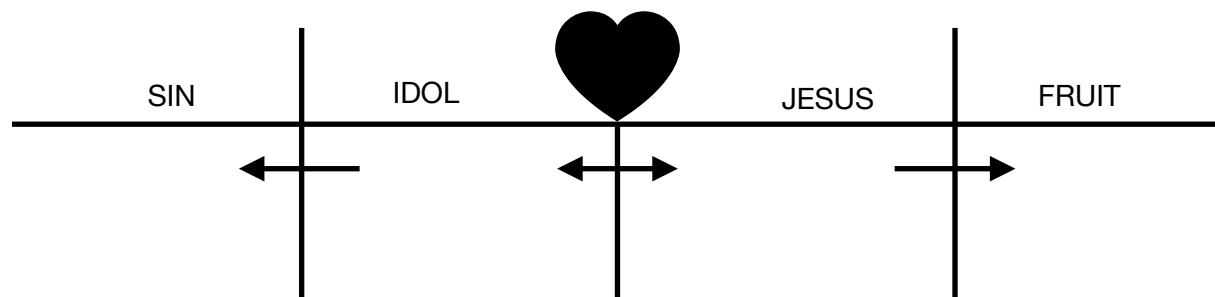
A _____ to be Shared with Generosity

Ephesians 4:28 - He who has been stealing must steal no longer, but must work, doing something useful with his hands that he may share with those in need.

THE PROBLEM OF MONEY

Here in Malachi money is a problem. 1 Timothy 6:10 - "Money is a root of all kinds of evils."

Money plus something besides God always goes wrong



Jesus redeems the way that we approach money.

- a. Jesus captivates our hearts.
- b. Having Jesus Means we have Everything in Jesus.

THE RE-PURPOSING OF MONEY

Ed Dunnington - "As the Spirit convicts us of our idolatry of wealth, we don't renounce money, we redeploy it to serve and love our neighbors."

2 Corinthians 8:2-5 - "On their own, according to their ability and beyond their ability, the Macedonian churches begged us insistently for the privilege of sharing in the ministry to the saints. And (they did this) not just as we had hoped. Instead, they gave themselves especially to the Lord, then to us by God's will."

Andy Stanley - "Generous people are generous, no matter what they make."