

**DAILY BIBLE READINGS - Week of September 10, 2023**  
**THEME: "Will A Man Rob God?"**

**ROBBING GOD**

**Sunday .....Read Malachi 3:6-12**

*"Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings."* We think of robbery as taking something from someone, and that is an accurate definition. God, however, sheds new light on the crime of robbery! He states in our Bible reading for today that not giving tithes and offerings to Him is robbing God. That means that a portion of what God has provided for a believer in personal income actually belongs to God. God is trusting His people to support His work on planet earth by the giving of tithes and offerings. Not giving to God the portion of that income with which He has provided for a believer is thievery, cheating God out of that which is actually His to do His work on earth! The work of God on earth today is the building of the Church as Jesus mentioned in Matthew 16:18: *"And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it."* God is trusting believers to give of their tithes and offerings to support that most important of all the businesses on earth. Robbing God's business is a serious crime. Providing financial support for God's work is a great opportunity and a great blessing!

**BUDGETING**

**Monday .....Read Matthew 6:31-34**

*"But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you."* This principle of seeking God and His Kingdom as our highest priority applies to our budgeting. Yes, there are necessities in planning the household budget that include food, clothing, and shelter. There are plenty of bills to be paid that must be included in the family budget. And it is important to make a budget in order to prevent foolish and reckless spending. The Christian, as a part of the family of God, has the privilege of giving to God and His work on His earth! The wise believer has that as his or her highest priority in planning the budget. It is a tangible way to show our love for God, and our appreciation for His Divine eternal provision to us! We can and should thank God for providing employment for us. God made us with certain talents to be the spiritual light in our place of employment. As we are doing our job as a witness for our Lord, we are also earning money to be able to give for God's eternal business. God's reaction to our giving is noted in II Corinthians 9:7: *"Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver."*

**SACRIFICIAL GIVING**

**Tuesday .....Read Mark 12:42-43**

*"And there came a certain poor widow, and she threw in two mites, which make a farthing. And He called unto Him His disciples, and saith unto them, Verily I say unto you, That this poor widow hath cast more in, than all they which have cast into the treasury."*

Jesus calls to our attention a marvelous example of sacrificial giving in the Gospel account on the poor widow's giving. By the description poor, we have to assume that the widow had to scrape to make ends meet. But that would not prevent her from giving what she could to the treasury of God! Because of her generous giving in light of her meager income, God counted it as the most valuable contribution of all givers! In God's system of bookkeeping, we could assume that her investment into the Kingdom of heaven earned more interest than those who gave a lot more in terms of its earthly

value. God knows and measures our giving on what we could actually give. God is being very generous in providing us with an income, and asks for only a small portion when you consider it. Tithing is a great opportunity to show our love for God; over and above is a great blessing!

### **SUNDAY OFFERING**

**Wednesday .....Read I Corinthians 16:1-2**

*"Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come."* A regular part of the Sunday morning worship service is the giving of tithes and offerings. This is essential for any local church to have the funds to support the ministry. If the parishioners are faithful in their giving in a Biblical way, the church will not have any trouble meeting their financial obligations. Since it is God who determines who will be a part of any church family, He anticipates that those whom He has placed will be able to provide the financial support; that is, if the called are faithful to the Biblical instruction in Paul's letter to the believers at the church in Corinth. This giving of church members should be carefully considered because there are a lot of ministries doing the work of God other than local churches who are looking for financial support. They obviously are looking for believers to supply the funds, which potentially could cause a shortfall in the local church. This is why God blesses some of His people in liberal financial ways, enabling all of His ministries to meet their needs.

### **HEAVENLY TREASURE**

**Thursday .....Read Matthew 6:19-20**

*"Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal."* We can conclude from this passage of Scripture that God keeps a record on the giving of those who are members of the True Church made up of born-again believers. It appears that we have an account in heaven, a treasure chest if we could call it that. The giving of tithes and offerings honors our Father in heaven and the Head of the Church universal, the Lord Jesus Himself. Unlike our savings in a local bank, this account is one hundred percent secure. No thief can ever break through and prevent the return on the investments we make in the work of God. That account is perfectly secure and will never be altered by human thievery! It could happen that a church building on earth could be robbed; but the record of the giving in heaven will not change if the deposits made by the church were hindered by a robber. God's heaven and the eternal records are secure and are not altered by tragedies on earth!

### **INVESTING IN SOULS**

**Friday .....Read Proverbs 11:30-31**

*"The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life; and he that winneth souls is wise."* A portion of the tithes and offerings given by members of a local church body is invested into the work of evangelism, the winning of souls. In light of today's Bible reading, we can conclude that the giving of tithes and offerings is a wise investment. Because of the faithful giving of her parishioners, the local church can be active in evangelism. That may be done with the purchase and distribution of Gospel literature. Faithful giving may result in the ability to provide support for those called into missionary work. There will be souls in heaven because of the giving of tithes and offerings to local churches!

## BUDGETING TIME

**Saturday**..... **Read Ephesians 5:14-17**

*"Redeeming the time, because the days are evil."* Another application of the term budgeting often used to plan for the use of our money is the use of our time. All believers have 168 hours a week to spend. Budgeting that time determines the quality of our lives. A portion of that time should be devoted to God. Some of that time is attendance at worship services and Christian activities. Some should be spent in times of private worship in prayer and Bible reading. Good planning of our time should include time given to God for a meaningful life with the pursuit of eternal values. There are many demands on the time of believers; but nothing should be allowed to take away from our time with God, whether it be in private or corporate worship and fellowship with other believers.