

The Exchanger

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THE NEWSLETTER
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The Mission of
FBCWR:
**Connecting People
to God's Life-
Changing Power**

**We've Got
Connections!**

*Not that I seek the gift
itself, but I seek for the
profit which increases
to your account.*

Philippians 4:7

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HOLDING UP GOD?

There is a story told of a pastor telling his church, "The good news is that our church has all the money we need to maintain the costs of this ministry and to expand as well. The bad news is that some of it is still in your wallets." Seems like the Lord Himself had this very problem in the book of Malachi 3. And He takes it very personally,

"Will a man rob God? Yet you are robbing Me! But you say, 'How have we robbed You?' In tithes and offerings... Bring



the whole tithe into the storehouse, so that there may be food in My house, and test 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 a blessing until it overflows."

What is "the whole tithe"? The word tithe simply means tenth. So we should donate a full 10% of our income. Does that seem like a lot to you? To me, it may as well be 95% of our income when I grasp the offer God makes after the command to tithe. He pledges to open up heaven and pour out an overflowing blessing on the tither. This promise is basically repeated in the New Testament in 2 Corinthians 9:7 - "He who sows sparingly will reap sparingly and he who sows generously will reap generously."

JESUS AND MONEY

Jesus knew we would be tempted to

invest only in ourselves. That is why 16 of 38 parables deal with money and possessions! One out of 10 verses in the Gospels (288) deal with money. In the NT, there are 500 verses on prayer, less than 500 on faith and more than 2000 on money!

Yet Jesus said "money is a small thing". He wasn't saying it is not important. He was saying money is an elementary school subject in our Christian education, one of the first things we must master. If God doesn't have our money, He doesn't have us—at all. If you are holding back from the discipline of giving the whole 10% of your income, then don't kid yourself, God doesn't have your heart.

REFLECTIONS ON CHECKBOOKS

Jesus is unmistakably clear, "*Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also*" (Matthew 6:21).

Our checkbook is a foolproof mirror of our hearts. Purchases chase values. So carve out of your earthly investments a regular and generous portion for God's work at this church. Not only will people be saved and set free because of your investment, but God guarantees to make it worth it to you. So I don't hesitate in saying, "The good news is: open up those wallets!"



-Joe Fornear