

"Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this," says the LORD Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it."

Malachi 3:10

1. God asks that the tithe be brought to Him
2. God promises a blessing to those who give tithe

"For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith--and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God-- not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do"

Ephesians 2:8,9

1. At the heart of salvation is the gift of God
2. Tithe giving will not save us—it is an obedient response to God's love for us.
3. Would you like help in working out how to give tithe?

DISCOVERING THE BIBLE

LESSON 21

LIFESTYLE COSTS—AND BENEFITS

"Suppose one of you wants to build a tower. Will he not first sit down and estimate the cost to see if he has enough money to complete it?"

Luke 14:28

1. Our decision to follow has to take facts into account.
2. God offers us choices
3. Do you see a spiritual choice at this time?

"Then Jesus said to his disciples, "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.

Matthew 16:24

1. We are to deny ourselves
2. We are to follow Jesus. To take up your cross is to take up a burden of service for others
3. This sounds hard—what makes it easier?

"Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable--if anything is excellent or praiseworthy--think about such things."

Philippians 4:8

1. The ultimate choice is to seek good for ourselves
2. Does this extend to all aspects of our life?

"Your beauty should not come from outward adornment, such as braided hair and the wearing of gold jewelry and fine clothes. Instead, it should be that of your inner self, the unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is of great worth in God's sight"

1 Peter 3:3,4

1. The focus in our lifestyle is in having a strong inner life
2. There is less stress on our looks—because it is how God looks on us that matters
3. We should have beauty
4. Does this stress on honouring God extend to how we use our possessions?

"Will a man rob God? Yet you rob me. But you ask, 'How do we rob you?' "In tithes and offerings."

Malachi 3:8

1. Good men in the days before Jesus robbed God and did not know it.
2. God defines how they robbed Him.

3. There is an obligation to give both tithes and offerings

"Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You give a tenth of your spices--mint, dill and cummin. But you have neglected the more important matters of the law--justice, mercy and faithfulness. You should have practiced the latter, without neglecting the former."

Matthew 23:23

1. Jesus approved of giving tithe
2. Tithing has to be combined with right relationships
3. We have seen that Jesus cares for His people—will He care for our day to day living as well? Does the following text answer the question?

"So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well."

Matthew 6:33

Talk to someone who gives tithe—find out if God has cared for the faithful tithe-giver