

ABC's of Financial Freedom: Choice – Week 3 Mark Rouse – mark@epicchurchbuffalo.com November 22, 2015

THE CHOICE: WILL WE LOVE AND TRUST MONEY, OR WILL WE LOVE AND TRUST GOD?

If you are faithful in little things, you will be faithful in large ones. But if you are dishonest in little things, you won't be honest with greater responsibilities. 11 And if you are untrustworthy about worldly wealth, who will trust you with the true riches of heaven?

— Luke 16:10-11

MONEY PROMISES WHAT GOD WANTS TO PROVIDE

- SECURITY
- FREEDOM
- POWER
- SIGNIFICANCE

No one can serve two masters. For you will hate one and love the other; you will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money. – Matthew 6:24

Those who love money will never have enough. How meaningless to think that wealth brings true happiness! – Ecclesiastes 5:10

THE CHOICE: I WILL GIVE GOD MY FIRST AND BEST SO HE CAN BLESS THE REST.

A tithe of everything from the land, whether grain from the soil or fruit from the trees, belongs to the LORD; it is holy to the LORD.

- Leviticus 27:30

"Will a mere mortal rob God? Yet you rob me. "But you ask, 'How are we robbing you?' "In tithes and offerings. 9 You are under a curse—your whole nation—because you are robbing me." - Malachi 3:8-9

THE BLESSINGS OF THE TITHE

1) TITHING PROVIDES FOR GOD'S <u>WORK</u> THROUGH HIS CHURCH.

"Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house." – Malachi 3:10a

2) TITHING TEACHES ME TO PUT GOD FIRST.

The purpose of the tithe is to teach you to always put God first in your lives. - Deuteronomy 14:23

3) TITHING INCREASES MY FAITH IN GOD.

"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 there will not be room enough to store it." – Malachi 3:10b

Jesus: "Hypocrites! For you are careful to tithe even the tiniest income from your herb gardens, but you ignore the more important aspects of the law—justice, mercy, and faith. You should tithe, yes, but do not neglect the more important things." – Matthew 23:23

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

- John 3:16