



THIS WEEK

GRACE COMMUNITY CHURCH, KAILUA KONA, HAWAII

events

Aloha! We are glad you are here. We request that you wear your mask, with the exception of while you are seated.

Nursery and Kids' Church:

Please sign-in each child at the back table.

Need Prayer? An Elder and his wife are available after the service in the Koa room.

1 & 2 Thessalonians journals are available - series begins 9/19 (suggested donation: \$5)

Communion next Sunday

Grace Groups are on a break until mid-September.

Middle School Youth Group

Wednesdays 4:30-6pm
(for grades 5-8; starting Sept 8)

Thursday Ladies Bible Study

starting Sept 16

- 9-10:30am (BSF - Matthew)
- 5:30-7pm (life of Elijah)

Ways to Give:

- Online on our website or app
- Giving box on Sundays
- Mail a check to the church



SERMON NOTES

Andrew Severinsen - Malachi
Famous Last Words

Big Idea: The LORD's covenantal love and the blessings and curses of that covenant.

- The things that God cares about:

- Finding meaning in the mess:

So Malachi, do we dare to hope?

Walt Russell, Ph.D.

The Tithe in the Old Testament

"Theocratic Tax"

The 3 *tithes* in the Mosaic Law¹

1st tithe – 1/10 of all

(called "the Lord's tithe" and "the storehouse tithe")

Focus: given to the Levites for their service in the tabernacle/temple

(Leviticus 27:30-33; Numbers 18:21-32)

2nd tithe – 1/10 of remaining 9/10

(called "the Israelites' tithe")

Focus: set apart and spent on the food and drink of a sacred meal

in Jerusalem "in the presence of the Lord your God"

(Deuteronomy 12:5-19; 14:22-27)

[those living too far from Jerusalem to bring animals, grain, wine, and oil for the meal could exchange the value of the meal's ingredients for money to purchase the meal in Jerusalem]

3rd tithe – An additional tithe every 3rd year

(or 1/10 of the remaining balance of 8/10 every 3rd year)

(a "charity or benevolence tithe")

Focus: for the Levites, aliens, orphans, and widows in one's local community because they have no inheritance in the land

(Deuteronomy 14:28-29)

If there are 2 tithes, the total "tithe" = 19% per year!

If there are 3 tithes, the total "tithe" = approximately 22% per year!

¹ There is no clear consensus among Old Testament scholars about whether there were three different tithes in Israel or whether the three sets of instructions about tithing were to bring out three different facets of the one tithe. To this author it is hard to correlate the three very different foci and emphases of the three sets of instructions with only one tithe. Additionally, given the "theocratic tax" dimension of the tithes, it seems far more likely that 19-22% of each Israelite family's income would be needed to keep the theocratic infrastructure going rather than 10%.