

**On the Money 05: "Test Me"**  
**Malachi 3 and Philippians 4**

March 10, 2024

**Main Idea:** God invites us to test Him as stewards.

**What We Believe about God**

Malachi chapter 3 is a world-famous passage on money. God's Word speaks plainly – **"we will not get away with robbing God."** If you struggle financially and live with financial pressure you should consider true biblical stewardship. As a challenge, God says, **"Test Me in this."** It is amazing to me what some choose to believe instead of believing God. Stewardship is God's pathway to financial peace and contentment.

**In Contrast**

In contrast, Paul's attitude in **Philippians 4** reflects the cure for financial misery. At this time Paul was in prison in Rome. Epaphroditus, a member of the congregation at Philippi, delivered gifts from the church. Paul returned this letter with him to the church. In ch.4 Paul tells us how we can be free from financial stress.

**1. Live Above the Pressures of this World (v.11).**

Step 1: Begin by creating a financial budget. We can assist you (use communication card). Step 2: **Focus on what you should do, not what you should have.** Feelings of entitlement will shipwreck you financially.

**2. Live Attached to the Person of Christ (v.13).**

Often v.13 is quoted out of its original context. When faced with a challenge, we might say, "I can do everything through Him..." Note the context here is **contentment**. Paul argues that through Christ I can be content whether I have plenty or not.

**3. Live Aware of the Needs of Others (v.19).**

God's way is revolutionary. He promises to meet our needs when we commit ourselves to the needs of others. God has a way of meeting our needs through our own generosity towards others.

**Family Night Big idea – Read Philippians 4:10-20.** Model contentment in your home. Teach your children the value of contentment. Help them understand the difference between contentment and complacency.

- **Elementary School** – Ask, "Why did Paul thank the church? What had they done for him? What did Paul say was the secret in life when it comes to having a lot or a little? What does contentment mean?"
- **Middle/ High School** – Ask, "Why does more money seem to make us happier? Is there a danger in always wanting more? What can you do to become more content? How does our faith in Christ make us more content?"

**Prayer** "Father, we want to be content with all You have provided. Please help us find contentment. Amen."

**Velocity (Middle and High School Students)**

**Velocity:** At the church this Wednesday, March 13<sup>th</sup>.

**Gravity:** Yes! In the Community Room.

**Today's Songs**

*Great Things*.....Phil Wickham

*Trust in God*.....Elevation Worship

*Death Was Arrested*.....Northpoint Worship

**PlusOne**

**PlusOne** represents your opportunity for spiritual growth by strengthening your personal relationship with God. In addition to attending one of our Sunday services, we are encouraging our adult population to commit to a **PlusOne** opportunity. Adding something to your worship is the best way to grow in your faithwalk. See flyer in the Lobby.

**Hop 'Til You Drop**

Join us in KidsJAM on March 20<sup>th</sup> for fun and games from 6-7:30pm. Food will be served. Sign up in KidsJAM.

**Night of Worship**

Everyone is invited to come hear our band play a concert on March 29<sup>th</sup>. There will be a children's part in the program also. The evening starts at 6pm.

**New Series "Follow"**

Religion says, "Change and you can join us." Jesus says, "Join us and you will change." Series starts on March 24<sup>th</sup>, Palm Sunday. This is a great opportunity to invite someone who does not attend church, to come experience the difference at GCC.