The background is a complex, abstract composition of overlapping lines and shapes. It features a dense network of thin, intersecting lines in shades of red, green, and purple. Larger, more prominent elements include several overlapping circles and ovals in various colors, some with internal patterns. The overall effect is a vibrant, textured collage. A large, light-colored rectangular area with a red border is positioned in the lower right, containing the text.

# Tithe & See

October 14, 2018  
Wonderful Mercy Church

## Money's Mega-Hold

- Mark 10:17-31
- Jesus offers an examination of money's mega-hold on us, and this is the upshot: the more of it we have, the stronger its hold on us

## Trends in Giving

- More than one out of four American Protestants give away no money at all—  
“not even a token \$5 per year”

[*Passing the Plate*, C. Smith, M. Emerson, & P. Snell (Oxford University Press), ©2008]

- Even though evangelical Protestants score best in the study, 36 percent report that they give away less than 2 percent of their income and only about 27 percent tithe

## Trends in Giving

- The median annual giving for an American Christian is actually \$200, just over half a percent of after-tax income
- Malachi 3:7-12

# Principles of Tithing

- Predates the Law
- Abraham: “‘And blessed be God Most High, who has delivered your enemies into your hand.’ And he [Abram] gave him a tithe of all.” [Genesis 14:20, NKJV]
- Jacob: “and this stone that I have set up as a pillar will be God's house, and of all that you give me I will give you a tenth.” [Genesis 28:22, NIV]

# Principles of Tithing

- Mandated in the Law
- “A tithe of everything from the land, whether grain from the soil or fruit from the trees, belongs to the Lord; it is holy unto the Lord.” [Leviticus 27:30, NIV]

## Principles of Tithing

- Affirmed by Jesus
- Matthew 23:23 “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.” [NAS]

## Principles of Tithing

- “Should” in Mt. 23:23 (DEI) indicates “must, necessary.” The same word is used by Jesus when talking to Nicodemus: “You must (DEI) be born again.” [John 3:7]
- Summary: giving comes before the Law, is required by the Law, and affirmed by Jesus who fulfills the law
- Grace always goes beyond Law



## Price of Not Tithing

- What does it mean to live under a curse?
- Haggai 1:4-11 tells us
  - The giving patterns of God's people effect the climate of the earth! (see v. 10)
  - You work and work, and you never get any further (see v. 6)

## **Malachi 3:10**

“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.” [NIV]

## Promise of Tithing


- If we bring the whole tithe (*all of it!*) into the storehouse (*local assembly*) we'll be blessed
- We're **commanded** to test God in this!
- Material blessings, but not exclusively
- Malachi 3:11 “Then I will rebuke the devourer for you.” [NAS]

## Purpose of Tithing

- To extend the Kingdom of God
- To increase our faith in and dependence on God
- To be entrusted with the greater riches
  - Luke 16:10-11 “Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much, and whoever is dishonest with very little will also be dishonest with much. So if you have not been trustworthy in handling worldly wealth, who will trust you with true riches?” [NIV]

## **Comes Down to Religion vs. Relationship**

- A religious mindset sees giving through the eyes of obligation where tithing = payment of dues, fee for service
- Tithing points us decisively to relationship
- Scripture's great challenge: test God in this!  
And get ready for the testimonies that will begin appearing

The background is a complex, abstract composition of overlapping lines and shapes. It features a dense network of thin, intersecting lines in shades of red, green, and purple. Larger, more prominent elements include several overlapping circles and ovals in various colors, some with internal patterns. The overall effect is a vibrant, textured collage. A large, light-colored rectangular area with a red border is positioned in the lower right, containing the text.

# Tithe & See

October 14, 2018  
Wonderful Mercy Church