

## WHAT IS OUR DUTY TO THE LORD'S CHURCH?

### I. OUR DUTY FIRST IS TO UNDERSTAND WHO STARTED THE CHURCH.

Jesus made it very plain that He would start and build His Church.

### II. OUR DUTY IS TO UNDERSTAND WHAT THE CHURCH IS.

It is God's local churches (assemblies) of people to attend to His affairs in that community and the world.

### III. OUR DUTY IS TO FAITHFULLY ATTEND CHURCH TO WORSHIP GOD.

To worship God we must worship in spirit and in truth.

To worship God in spirit is to come with the right spirit and to worship in truth means that you worship the Lord God according to the teachings of the Bible.

### IV. OUR DUTY IS TO FAITHFULLY SUPPORT OUR CHURCH WITH TITHES AND OFFERINGS.

A. A lot of people misunderstand Malachi 3:10.

Mal. 3:10, "Bring all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be food in My house, and try Me now in this," says the Lord of hosts, "If I will not open for you the windows of heaven And pour out for you such blessing that there will not be room enough to receive it." (NKJV)

B. Or they purposely do not want to understand it.

C. What was the purpose of tithing?

1. To support the House of God.

Matt. 21:13, "And He said to them, 'It is written, My house shall be called a house of prayer.'" (NKJV)

2. When we come to worship God, we come to His House - His Church.

3. Now since Mal. 3:10 says the tithe was to support God=s House (storehouse), the question is ADoes God=s house still need to be supported?@ Of course the answer is yes.

4. Tithing did not start under the law.

a. A tithe is 10%. Notice it says Abram gave a tithe of all.

5. Jesus said we ought to tithe. Matt. 23:23

D. Why did God use a percentage on how much we are to give?

1. A percentage allows a poor person to give as much as a rich person.

E. Now God promises us two benefits of tithing.

Mal. 3:10-11, “Bring all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be food in My house, and try Me now in this, Says the Lord of hosts, If I will not open for you the windows of heaven and pour out for you such blessing that there will not be room enough to receive it. And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, so that he will not destroy the fruit of your ground, nor shall the vine fail to bear fruit for you in the field, Says the Lord of hosts”; (NKJV)

1. First benefit is God will pour out a blessing on you.

2. Second benefit is God will rebuke the devourer.

F. This may be the only place in the Bible that God challenges us to test Him.

IV. OUR DUTY TO OUR CHURCH IS TO BE A REGULAR GIVER.

A. The Scripture says bring it.

B. A lot of people fail to bring all the tithe and don=t get the benefits.

Prov. 3:9, “Honor the Lord by giving him the first part of all your income, and he will fill your barns with wheat and barley.” (TLB)

C. Some people fail to give the tithe where God has said to give it.

1. It is to be brought to His House.

Mal. 3:10, “Bring all the tithes into the storehouse so that there will be food enough in my Temple.” (TLB)

2. We are not to spread our tithe out to different places, if we want to be obedient.

Mal. 3:8-9, “Will a man rob God? Surely not! And yet you have robbed me. 'What do you mean? When did we ever rob you? You have robbed me of the tithes and offerings due to me. And so the awesome curse of God is cursing you,” (TLB)

OUR DUTY IS TO BE OBEDIENT TO SUPPORT “GOD=S HOUSE” LIKE HE SAYS IN HIS WORD AND HE PROMISES TO BLESS US IF WE DO.