

## SERMON SUMMARY

<b>Date:</b> October 8, 2006	11:00 am Worship Service
<b>Preacher:</b> Rev. Dr. Negil McPherson	<b>Reference:</b> Malachi 3: 7-12
<b>Topic:</b> Stewardship Is Seeking Increase...In reward for the Servant	

Stewardship encompasses the entirety of our Christian life. Whatever we do is a part of our stewardship. Stewardship is not only to be thought of in terms of a financial responsibility, but also our responsibility to share, serve, witness and be committed to our calling.



Reward by definition means compensation for an action and there are certain rewards that come with being a tither. God has instructed us to tithe (*verse 10*). The pertinent question that seems to be addressed in this portion of scripture is what does tithing prove?

1. Tithing proves our trust in God. When we are obedient to God, it shows we trust in His wisdom. It demonstrates our faith in God's ability to supply our needs. The question is do we really trust God as our total provider.
2. Tithing proves and acknowledges God's ownership. Verse 10 uses the verb 'bring' as opposed to 'give.' This is an important distinction because everything belongs to God and we can't give to God what isn't ours to give. We are merely stewards of what God has entrusted us with. "*The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof.*"
3. Tithing proves our love for God. Man's first duty is to love God with all we have...our entire being. Jesus says, "*If you love me, keep my commandments.*" Tithing is an example of love in action. Loving God should motivate us to willingly bring our first fruits to God.
4. Tithing proves our thankfulness to God. Gratitude always generates generosity. Giving reveals the level and depth of our gratitude.

Even though Malachi highlights the importance of tithing, God's focus is not on the gift itself, but rather on the giver. His focus is not on the tithe, but rather the tither. His focus is not on the possession, but rather on us.