

Pursuing God's Prosperity
Will a Man Rob God?
Malachi 3.8-12/2 Cor 9:6-9

December 20, 2009

6 Now this I say, he who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. 7 Each one must do just as he has purposed in his heart, not grudgingly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. 8 And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that always having all sufficiency in everything, you may have an abundance for every good deed;

If we are to pursue prosperity we must do this within the confines and safety of God's principles. There is only one thing that Jesus ever released us to pursue- the Kingdom. So any pursuit of prosperity that God will take pleasure in must be a pursuit of Kingdom expansion that increased resources can facilitate.

This is an age-old question that has been asked in the church and has been preached for centuries with judgment and condemnation. With these verses as the backdrop believers have been told they were going to hell, that they should lose their houses and fail to educate their children – all in the name of “not robbing God”!

However historically, this is a call to return to God and walk in His blessings. The curses are not the anger of God against the giver, but rather the natural result of refusing to give God what is His and effectively fail to pay the Security Company that protects us from the ravages of the enemy.

1. When we give we reverse the curse of poverty!

Has anyone here ever been to jail? Do they let you out if you cry and/or complain?

- When we fail to pay our bills there are always - consequences.

You fail to pay electric bill and... Water bill... Cable bill...

- When we fail to honor God then we make the devil god of our money! Jn. 10.10

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He does what he does - steal, kill and destroy!

- When we fail to honor God house, we feel it in ours! Hag 1:6,7

6 "You have sown much, but harvest little; you eat, but there is not enough to be satisfied; you drink, but there is not enough to become drunk; you put on clothing, but no one is warm enough; and he who earns, earns wages to put into a purse with holes." 7 Thus says the LORD of hosts, "Consider your ways!"

2. When we give we pay for divine security over our investments! Vs.11

11 "Then I will rebuke the devourer for you, so that it will not destroy the fruits of the ground; nor will your vine in the field cast its grapes," says the LORD of hosts.

- He takes a stand against the devourer - the enemy.

There are times that the enemy

- He guards us against natural times of loss.
- He brings your investments to maturity!

Then the nations will see and honor God... Africa historically was under the influence of many different gods. From the gods of the Egyptians to the traditional gods and spirits to Christianity that was often insincere and just a means of obtaining the wealth of Africa.

But today revival is sweeping over Africa. Thousands upon thousands of people are coming to faith in Christ and Christianity is growing faster there than on any continent in the world! I believe that the natural resources will be returned to the people.

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3. When we give we allow God to distinguish between the wicked and the righteous!

God desires to draw a sharp contrast between the giver and the selfish in order to advance and promote His kingdom.

- God loves to hear us testify to one another of His goodness!!
- God keeps a record of the times we trust Him.
- God will watch over you when others are destroyed!!