

## Morning Worship

March 12, 2017

Pastor — Allan Lane

Organ --- Alva Lou Schottel

Worship Leader — Tim Waters

Piano — Marcia Hart

**As you enter for worship, please silence your cell phones.**

(CCLI permit # 424692 covers all copyright song lyrics)

Chorus # 432	<i>It's So Wonderful</i>	Tim/People
Worship Prayer		Allan Lane
Welcome and Fellowship		Allan/People
Scripture Reading	Psalm 138	Tim/People
Hymn # 184	<i>Jesus Is All the World to Me</i>	Tim/People
Offering Prayer		Bill Schottel
Tithes and Offerings		People
Offering Music		Marcia Hart
Hymn # 4	<i>To God Be the Glory</i>	Tim/People
Hymn # 575	<i>I Will Sing of My Redeemer</i>	Tim/People
Anthem	<i>Because He Lives (Amen)</i>	Worship Choir
Children's Worship	(Children are dismissed)	
Scripture Reading		Allan/People
Message	<i>Malachi: Be Ready</i>	Allan Lane
Hymn # 294	<i>Have Thine Own Way, Lord</i>	Tim/People
Prayer Concerns		Allan/People
Chorus #571	<i>Let Others See Jesus in You</i>	Tim/People

## Malachi: Be Supportive

Malachi 3:7-12

*After spending 70 years in captivity in Babylon, the Jewish people returned to Israel. But the people got slack in their relationship to the Lord. They were living as though obedience to God was optional. But obedience is a requirement. One of the areas where the people had been disobedient to God was in their tithes and offerings.*

### **1. God commands we tithe. Verses 7-9**

You need to understand God doesn't need our money. He's already the owner of everything we've got. He made this world and it all belongs to Him. So, understand that tithing isn't about money. It's about obedience. God calls for His followers to give back to Him a tithe.

#### **Question: What is the tithe ?**

It means 45%. **PAUSE** Okay, so you can't blame me for trying. Actually, it literally means 10%. Contrary to popular belief, preachers didn't come up with this concept. The tithe is a command that comes from God (Leviticus 27:30). In Genesis God set mankind to steward the earth. This set a precedent to show us that we're not owners of the things around us. We're merely stewards, or caretakers. And that includes our finances.

Then why does God want us to give Him a tenth of what we have? Because when we tithe we're showing that we recognize all things are His. It shows our submission to His will instead of our own. As you can imagine, this is an area where many people

struggle. The people in our text were struggling with it as well. Since they'd returned home, the people of Israel hadn't been quite as prosperous as they'd hoped to be. It seemed as though the people who were ungodly were doing better than the people who were trying to live by the commands of God.

Let's be honest - we've thought the same things as well. But you know what that is? It's just us simply making excuses as to why we can't be obedient to God. When tithing is discussed it's real easy to start making excuses as to why you can't do it. We say things like, "Hey, I'd love to tithe but I just don't have enough money to make ends meet. I've got to pay my bills and if I tithe I can't pay them." Or "I've got kids in college and I've got to get them through school." Believe me. I understand. It's scary feeling like you're giving away money when you're living on a tight budget. But let me tell you something. God has commanded that His children tithe. No matter how you slice it, not to tithe is offensive to God.

There was a church member having trouble with the concept of tithing. One day he revealed his doubts to the pastor. He said, "Pastor, I just don't see how I can give 10% of my income to the church when I can't even keep on top of my bills." The pastor said, "Well, okay, let me make a offer to you. If I promise to make up the difference in your bills should you fall short, do you think you could try tithing for just one month?"

After a pause, the man said, "If you promise to make up any shortage, then maybe I could give it a try for one month." The pastor then said, "Isn't that strange that you'd trust a mere man like me, who possesses so little materially, but you couldn't trust your heavenly Father who own the whole universe?"

God's offended because when we don't tithe we're showing that we don't trust Him to meet our needs. Philippians 4:19, "And my God shall supply all your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus." How serious of an offense is it not to tithe? Malachi said it's robbing God.

That's a pretty serious offense. It's robbing the Creator of all things; robbing the one who is greater than all things. Doesn't sound like He's one you'd want to steal from. Think about it like this. How wise would it be for me to walk up to Rhonda Rousey and pick a fight with her? How many of you feel like I could take her out? Yeah, that's what I thought. None of you would bet on me. You'd agree it would be a foolish and embarrassing mistake. Those of you who follow Jesus understand it's a foolish mistake when we rob God. The Jews weren't giving God the tithe. Therefore, their land was going through severe drought. Their crops were dying. The same thing happens today. Some of you are wondering why your spiritual lives feel dead. When you pray you don't feel as though your prayers go any higher than the ceiling. You're facing difficulties in your life that you don't know how to handle.

And it very well could be the reason why is because you're robbing God. Folks, God commands His people to give. When He tells us to follow Him, it means to follow Him with every bit of our lives. That's a part of following Him. Is that easy to do? No. But He never said it would be.

Jesus said in Luke 9: 23, "If anyone would come after Me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow Me."

## **2. The tithe blesses the recipient . Verse 10**

A question some of you might have is, "Who's supposed to receive the tithe?" Obviously we don't just hand it directly into God's hand, so where does it go? Look at verse 10. It tells us our tithe is to go to the storehouse.

**Question: What is the storehouse ?**

The storehouse was the treasury room of the Temple. It was the place where the offerings and tithes were stored. The tithes were used to take care of the priests and to provide important ministries outside of the Temple.

Now where would the storehouse be today? The storehouse would be the church. The tithes are to be used to help maintain the church but also to perform ministries outside of the church building.

Do you realize that when a tithe is given at Calvary Baptist Church, that a percentage of it goes to the Cooperative Program and supports the Missouri Baptist Convention as well as the Saint Joseph Baptist Association. The Cooperative Program is a topic for another day, but it is the way all Southern Baptists cooperate together to do Kingdom work. It is not just how we fund our denomination, even though that is a portion of it. But much of what we give to the Cooperative Program goes to help missionaries tell other people about Jesus.

Our giving doesn't just minister to people spiritually, but also physically. A part of our budget is directed towards the West Valley Food Kitchen, where we serve one meal each month.

Sometimes we just don't realize the great effect our giving has on the lives of others. I'm afraid what happens is that we look at giving like it's another bill we have to pay and miss seeing the big picture, which is the great blessing that it causes in other people's lives.

When you give look at the big picture. An American shoe salesman went to Africa to sell shoes. When he got there he was angry for having ever gone there. As he walked around the villages everyone there was barefooted. He called his boss back in the States and said, "Get me out of here now. Nobody wears shoes in this part of the world."

So they brought him home and hired a new salesman and sent him over. When he got there he looked around and he also noticed no one was wearing shoes. But his response was totally different. He ran back to his room and grabbed the phone to call his boss. When his boss answered the phone he said, "Send more shoes! Everyone here needs them!"

There are people all around us who are living without Jesus. As you give, think of the big picture. Remember lives will be changed for an eternity through your faithfulness in giving.

### **3. The tithe blesses the giver . Verses 10-12**

Remember in our text that Israel was going through a drought because they weren't giving their tithes and offerings to God. But God told Malachi to tell the people to return to Him in their giving. If the people would just give, He'd make the land productive again. He'd pour out His blessings upon His people.

Everyone here today wants to be blessed by God. So how do we go about receiving the blessings of God? God honors obedience to Him. One of the areas where we're to be obedient to God is in the giving of the tithe. Notice that verse 10 says to "bring the full tenth." It doesn't say, "Bring the full 8% or the full 2%." It says, "Bring the full tenth." That's pretty clear. God's not interested in a tip. He's interested in obedience. But God has a promise for us in the midst of our obedience.

#### **Question: What is the promise ?**

God says that He'll bless us. Apparently the people in Malachi's day weren't any different than us. They were skeptical about God's ability to bless them just like we are. And God basically responds to our skepticism by saying, "Test Me. Be obedient to Me and see what happens. Before you say you don't believe it, try it out for yourself and see what happens."

You know what that tells us? God Himself is confident that He will come through on what He says. When God makes a promise, He keeps it (Joshua 21:45). God doesn't lie (Hebrews 6:18). Simply put, when God says He'll bless us, that's exactly what He'll do. The Jews had trusted in their own abilities and it got them into a heap of trouble physically and spiritually.

And you might be just like that. You might be placing all of your faith in yourself, in what you can do; trusting in your own abilities to pull you through whatever needs you might have. But here's something to consider. You will never be greatly blessed by God until you let God reign in your life; until you give God control of everything you've got.

It's recorded in Acts 20: 35 that Jesus said "It is more blessed to give than to receive." I believe He knew what He was talking about. There's no doubt that one of the most satisfying things to do is give.

Some of you may remember Aesop's fable about an old crow that was out in the wilderness looking for something to drink. It was hot outside and he hadn't had anything to drink in a long time. As he was flying around he spotted a jug sitting on the ground. He approached the jug and looked into it and noticed a little water at the bottom of it.

Excitedly he put his beak in the jug only to realize he couldn't reach the water. So guess what he did? He began to pick up pebbles lying all over the ground and one at a time put them into the jug. One by one the pebbles began to accumulate in the jug until the water in the bottom rose to the top and the old crow was able to drink the water.

This parable is reflective of the way God has chosen to work out His plan in our lives. You see, God calls for us to give to Him what we have. At first our giving might not seem that significant. It might seem like our giving to God is a waste of time. Think about it - if the old crow hadn't been willing to give the pebbles he would've died of thirst.

So as we give faithfully to God, His blessings will come our way and our thirst for a meaningful life will be satisfied by the blessings of God. Our part is simply to trust that the blessings of God will come our way; to trust that God will bless us as we're obedient to Him.

## **Conclusion**

Christians, this message has been mainly directed towards you. And I hope you leave here today with a better idea of why we're called to give. Tithing isn't an option for believers. It's a command. But it's a good one. There are 3 reasons we're called to give: First, because God commands us to give. Second, because the tithe blesses the recipient. And finally, it is because the tithe blesses the giver.

Some of you may be struggling with finding the purpose of your life. You're seeking for purpose but you're coming up empty every time. Let me share with you the provider of purpose and meaning: Jesus (John 10:10).

God wants to bless you. The question is, "Will you let Him?" Let's use this time as a time of prayer where you tell God you want to follow Him; that you're willing to trust Him with every part of your life. This might be the day where you commit to God in your giving.

For others of you, you need to begin by surrendering your life to Jesus as your Lord and Savior. If you'd like to do that, then pray this prayer after me: Dear Jesus, I know I'm a sinner. Forgive me of my sins. I surrender my life to you and ask you to save me.

If you prayed that prayer, allow me to invite you to do one more thing. In a moment we are going to sing a decision hymn. Won't you come to God's altar and lay it at the feet of Jesus today? It is when we obey that God will bless us beyond our imagination.

## ***Will You Let God Bless You?***

### ***Know the Facts***

One morning, so the legend goes, Prince Llywelyn of Gwynedd was ready to set off on a hunting trip but his favorite Irish wolfhound named Gelert was nowhere to be seen. Although he was normally the keenest of all the hounds, His master blew his hunting-horn but he would not answer.

So Prince Llywelyn and his men decided to set off from the hunting lodge without him. That day they did not have their usual success. As evening fell, Prince Llywelyn returned to the lodge while his servants stabled the horses. But when he came to the door, to his surprise it had been pushed partly open. Thinking at once about his young son who had been left in the cradle upstairs, He rushed up stairs to find him. But the sight that met his eyes was not the peaceful scene he had left there that morning. None of the maidservants were there. Everything was overturned or smashed or most ominous of all covered in blood. Then he saw the wooden cradle, lying on its side, empty. There were the bed-clothes in a bloody heap, and there was Gelert lying on the floor. His jaws were covered in blood and he was wagging his tail.

Prince Llywelyn did not know why his dog had so betrayed him and attacked the baby boy. Maybe it was hunger or perhaps jealousy. At this moment in time, he did not care. Only revenge mattered, and drawing his sword he stabbed the hound in the heart.

Gelert gave a low moan, but did not move. As the Prince walked away from the hound, he noticed another animal lying still in the room. It was a wild wolf that had entered the house looking for food. Gelert had not killed the baby after all, just the intruding wolf. Prince Llywelyn had made decisions without having all the facts and it led to disastrous results.

That is why it is so important that we trust God in all things. We cannot know everything—we do not have the capacity to know all. We are not God. We must trust Him for He sees the big picture and understand exactly what is best for our lives. Even when we can't see everything, we can trust Him to know what is best for us. Are you trusting Him?

God Bless You!

*Bro. Allan*

## **Opportunities For Service**

**Living out Your Spiritual Commitment . . . and Fulfilling Christ's Divine Plan**

**Sunday, March 12, 2017**

Choir Rehearsal..... 9:00 am

Sunday School ..... 9:15 am

Morning Worship.....10:30 am

Nursery: Volunteers as needed

Ushers: Larry McKahan, Isaac Waters, Ken Kirkpatrick, Bill Schottel

Alternate: Ken Nice

Evening Worship.....6:30 pm

**Wednesday, March 15**

Youth Study..... 6:30 pm

Prayer / Bible Study ....6:30 pm

Adult Choir ..... 7:30 pm

**Thursday, March 16**

**R** Team.....6:30 pm

**Saturday, March 18**

Betty Campbell's 90th Birthday Celebration from 2-4 pm at McCarthy Baptist Church

**Sunday, March 19, 2017**

Choir Rehearsal.....9:00 am

Sunday School.....9:15 am

Morning Worship.....10:30 am

Nursery: Volunteers as needed

Ushers: ? ? ? ?, Ken Nice, Don Sharp, Fred Kerns

Alternate: Isaac Waters

No Evening Worship.....

**Wednesday, March 22**

Youth Bible Study.....6:30 pm

Bible Study.....6:30 pm

Adult Choir.....7:30 pm

**Thursday, March 23**

**O** Team.....6:30 pm

Food Pantry Day

**Up-Coming Events.....**

**March 12— Food Pantry Collection**

**March 17 — Happy St. Patrick's Day**

**March 18 — Betty Campbell's 90th birthday celebration 2-4 pm**

**March 19 — Lunch and Business Meeting at Noon**

**March 26 — Diversicare 2:30 pm**

**March 30 — VBS Worker's Clinic FBC, St. Joseph 6:30-9:00 pm**

**GROW Team**

Commit to **GROW!** **Everyone make a contact!** Invite someone to Bible Study and Worship this week. ☺

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**Sunday Nights**

We will have Bible study tonight at 6:30 pm. Please join us tonight for a special surprise!

## **Wednesday Night Prayer and Bible Study**

This past Wednesday at 6:30 pm we began a new study entitled ***Grace***. This seven session study by Max Lucado takes us on a journey to discover the depth of God's grace—*more than you deserve, greater than you can imagine, and all that you need*. Hope to see you here!

## **North American Missions And Annie Armstrong Easter Offering**

Envelopes will be in the pews  
next week.

## ***90th Birthday Celebration***

*Betty (Harr) Campbell*

*March 18, 2017*

*2:00-4:00 pm*

*McCarthy Baptist Church*

*Please come and help us celebrate Betty's 90th birthday!*

## **FELLOWSHIP DINNER AND BUSINESS MEETING**

Sunday, March 19,

Immediately following the Morning Worship Service.

## ***Welcome!!***

### ***New Members—***

Randy and Gina Harr

5516 Miller Road

Saint Joseph, MO 64505

Phone: (816) 617-1042

## ***Thank You***

Thank you for your recent donation to our food pantry. Thank you for your faithful giving.

God bless you,  
Maggie Wall  
Patee Park Baptist  
Food Pantry

**Diversicare  
Nursing Home  
March 26, 2017**

2:30 pm

Please join us as we  
minister to those who can no longer attend their  
own churches.

## *For the Record*

### **Attendance: March 5, 2017**

Sunday School.....	41
Visitors.....	0
Total.....	41
Contacts Made.....	7
Morning Worship.....	49
Children's Worship.....	12
Kevin's Concert .....	46
Wednesday Night .....	17

### **Financial Record:**

Weekly Budget .....	\$ 2,040.52
Offering Received ...	\$ 4,136.73
Offering for	
Kevin Rowe .....	\$ 280.00

### **Offering Received by Mail:**

Eric and Shelly Thompson

### **March Counting Team:**

Bill Schottel and Mike Green

### **March Van Driver:**

George Burgess

Remember to call 232-3747

**before 8 am** if you need a ride.

### **March Member Birthdays:**

01...Ken Nice  
05...Sharon Yarbrough  
13...Tim Ford  
16... Don Sharp  
16... Aleana Lane  
20... Betty Campbell  
27... Jim Winans

### **March Anniversaries**

Fred and Linda Kerns  
March 14, 1969



### ***Prayer Requests ...***

Datha Dillon's Daughter's family  
Troy Griswold—surgery recovery  
Rev. A. B. Brown  
Tracy Maisel and Tim Ford  
Juanita and Bill Haskins—adjustments  
Tim Izer  
Gary & Peggy Fewins, Byron & Joel  
George Ferbert—strength  
Nellie Reynolds—recovery at home  
Larry Danner—cancer treatment  
Cynthia Burdick—cancer treatment  
Jim Winans at home  
Karissa and Matt Long and family  
Betty Campbell—healing  
Marcia and Don Hart—future plans  
Lisa Bowers—Jack and Flo's daughter  
LoLeta Middleton—strength  
Ellen Blanton and Lois Ulmer—  
    Elvera's daughter & daughter-in-law  
Stella Davis and Linda Rails—Doris  
    Richardson's sisters  
Madeline Swink      Ann Riddle  
Kathryn Beavers      Keon McKahan  
Louanne Laurence      Leona Reynolds  
Jozy Winans      Kenny Duty  
Kevin Duty      Buddy Means  
Bill Haskins      Debbie Sands  
Pat Puckett      Judy Anderson  
Brenda Burgess      Roscoe Lane  
Carolyn Houts  
Missionaries Don and Diane Combs  
Nickolay Nazaruk, Peski 2 Church  
David and Deborah Grace  
Jeanette Swackhamer—Beja People  
Our Nation and Leaders  
Our Military Service people  
**Today's Prayer Requests ...**

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### **Our Nation and our Leaders ...**

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### **Five More New Families...**

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