



2019

**This is the year we want to
live the God-life He offers us;
faithful, helping, spending
and being spent in love for
the people of our worlds!**

Annual Report Sunday...

2019

- **Discovered God's plans for financing His kingdom, on earth...**
 - Primarily the tithe and offering...
 - Secondly, building funds, alms and mission giving!
- **While all giving is a form of worship...**
- **Tithing is unique because, to God, it is a non-discretionary form of worship, *it is holy to Him*, and requires diligence!**

2019

Annual Report Sunday...

- Tithing began as Abraham's worship!
Genesis 14.20
- It was legislated when the children were not willing to worship but still wanted the benefits! **Leviticus 27.28-30**
- It was designated by God for the priests; for their service in the temple, for their service to the temple and for their service to the people! **Numbers 18.20**
– *Beautiful... when/where it works...*

2019

Annual Report Sunday...

- Tithing continues through all who are Abraham's children; living by faith!
Galatians 3.7
 - Same curses for not... and blessings for!
- Jesus linked the tithe to NT believers!
 - “You pay tithes of all but have omitted the weightier matters of judgment, mercy and faith. *Do the latter and don't leave the former things undone!*” **Matt 23.23**

Things That Slip!



- In the 1,000 years between the Law and Malachi there was a tithing problem...
 - “From the days of your fathers to now you have tried doing things your own way, but, you need to return to Me and I will return to you. ‘What did we do that we need to return?’ You have robbed Me! ‘What have we done to rob you?’ Withholding the tithes and offerings! You are cursed with a curse, even your whole nation!” **Mal 3.7ff**

Things That Slip!



- In the 400 year interim (apocrypha) between Malachi and Jesus...
 - Israel has gotten it together financially!
 - They ‘returned to God,’ proved Him in the covenant of prosperity and the windows of heaven have been opened to them, the devourer has been rebuked, they have been blessed, and noticed, as producers of great wealth! *BUT...*

Things That Slip!



- In the 400 year interim (apocrypha) between Malachi and Jesus...
 - Israel has gotten it together financially!
 - *BUT...* they love their prosperity, too much!
 - Now, to hold on to what they have been given and *‘to get more...’*
 - They are holding back from the care of other’s needs...
 - “We have a plan for our money...”

Things That Slip!



- In the 400 year interim (apocrypha) between Malachi and Jesus...
 - Israel has gotten it together financially!
 - *BUT...* they love their prosperity, too much!
 - “You say, ‘the money that I could have used to help you has been devoted and consecrated to God, therefore I can’t help you...’ which, by your allowances, makes the word of God of no effect!” **Mk 7.11-13**

Things That Slip!



- In the 400 year interim (apocrypha) between Malachi and Jesus...
 - Israel has gotten it together financially!
 - *BUT...* they love their prosperity, too much!
 - So Jesus dials them back in: “You pay tithes of all... but have omitted the weightier matters of judgment, mercy and faith. *Do the latter and don’t leave the former things undone!*” **Matt 23.23**

Things That Slip!



- **“Do the latter: judgment, mercy and faith... and the former (tithes of all)!”**
 - Remember that this is in the “Things That Slip Among Religious People” Chapter!
 - The Pharisees were the “Word People!”
 - Well intentioned, but then too familiar, too comfortable, too proud, too sure...
 - Wanted to be seen as ‘religious...’
 - But filling up the cup of “WOE!”

Things That Slip!



- **“Do the latter: judgment, mercy and faith... and the former (tithes of all)!”**
 - Remember that this is in the “Things That Slip Among Religious People” Chapter!
 - And Jesus brings them back into focus!
 - But it’s one topic/focus... not two...
 - Not monetary values vs. higher ethics!
 - (It’s okay to separate them...but...) this is about moral ethics *WITH* our money!

Things That Slip!



- “You pay tithes of all but have omitted the weightier matters of judgment, mercy and faith. Do the latter and don’t leave the former things undone! You *blind guides* (odegoi), *instructors*, you strain out the gnats (from the wine residue so you aren’t violated by an unclean bug) but then swallow a camel (of uncleanness)!” **Matt 23.23,24**

Paraphrased...



- **“You maintain your covenant for financial prosperity, down to the smallest details, but you forget the larger issues of what your abundance is for! It’s for judgement; ‘I discern something needs to be done!’ It’s for mercy; ‘I will do something about it!’ It’s for faith; ‘I will respond even if it requires new levels of faith to do it!’ I will not be careful to maintain the smallest details while I suck down camel-sized unfaithfulness!”**

A Tale of Two Stories!



- Alex and the lady in need!
 - Alex is dealing with a septic system failure!
 - Best estimate **\$1200...**
 - Lady calls Vida office: “Can you help me with my light bill? \$100.”
 - Comes in to do the paperwork: **\$389.**
 - “\$100 will keep it from being shut off!”
 - Though in a crunch, Vida paid her bill...
 - Company did the work for **\$450!**

A Tale of Two Stories!



- **Us, and last month's benevolence!**
 - Last quarter was a financial stretch...
 - Bldg. Year/finishing the reno's...
 - Just finished Christmas Family Outreach...
 - Adding to it to complete the needs!
 - Last minute benevolence/EOM bills!
 - Dec. 30, unexpected gift came in from outside our group to let us finish: \$26,000
 - <1% but *in the black!*

A Tale of Two Stories!

2019

- In both cases, had needs of “our own...”
 - In both cases judgment, *mercy and faith* had the greater demand!
 - We used what we had in hand to make a difference in a need, *by faith!*
 - In both cases we remembered what our supply was for, and God made a move!
 - Vida: ‘helped the poor, God repaid!’
 - Life: ‘running hard, God replenished!’

With “Bursts...!”



- From, “Being not wise in our own eyes, but reverencing (worshipping) the Lord and departing from evil, which is health and moisture to our bones! Honor the Lord with your substance (“enough”) and the first-fruits of your increase (tithing) so that your barns are filled with plenty and your vats burst with overflow!” **Proverbs 3.7-10**

With “Bursts...!”



- From, “Bringing all the tithes into the storehouse that there may be meat in My house, and prove Me with your giving, says the Lord of Hosts, and see if I won’t open the windows of heaven and pour you out a blessing that you can’t contain! See if I won’t rebuke the devourer for your sakes, and make your labor productive!” **Mal 3.10**

With “Bursts...!”



- **“Beloved, I wish above all else that you would prosper and be in health even as your soul prospers! I rejoice greatly, and have no greater joy, than to hear that you are walking in truth. Do faithfully, the good you do to the people around you! They are talking about your love! If you are endowed with this worlds goods, meet needs, show the love of God in you! Let us not live in word only but in deeds and truth!” (Compendium, J-P-J)**

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