



**Series:** Malachi – God’s Response to Fake Religion

**Passage** Malachi 3:6-3:12

**Title:** The Root – vs- The Fruit

**Speaker:** Pastor JC Cooper– 7/28/2019

## Discussion Starter

“I have loved you,” says the LORD (Malachi 1:2) – Is God worthy of our worship? Is the Lord the first priority in your life? Examine why and how you worship. Do you give the Lord your best always? How is lukewarm worship cheating yourself?

## Are you giving the Lord the best in every area of your life?

- Have you departed from the Lord’s ordinances?
- Why might God want us to follow his instruction?
- If your worship is in need of improvement, what does it look like to return to proper worship? (see James 4:7-10)
- What does God promise to those that return to proper worship?

## Everything Belongs to God – An offering is giving back what is already his

- Is it possible to steal from God? If not, then why does God accuse Israel of robbing him?
- If God does not need our offerings then why did he ask us to give to him? Who benefits from giving and serving? In what way?
- What is a tithe? How much did God ask Israel to give to the Lord? Why is our attitude about giving (money, time, gifts) so important? (See Deuteronomy 12:10-12)

## The New Testament teaches that we have freedom from the law

- Since we are under grace (free from the law), are we still **required** to give? How does Deuteronomy 12:10-12 and 2 Corinthians 9:6-8 apply?
- Is tithing a requirement for salvation? Are we commanded to give? How much are we commanded to give? Why are we to give to God first?
- God promises blessing if we give? What is a “blessing” in this context? (verse 10)
- What are the three lies that the prosperity gospel teach? Why is the prosperity gospel attractive? Who does the prosperity gospel benefit most?
- Is it possible to purchase joy, delight, or eternal security?
- What does Paul say is the purpose of working hard? (Ephesians 4:28) How might this look to unbelievers?
- How is giving (not just to the church) a natural response to God’s love?