

*Living Excellent Lives*  
**Living Excellent Lives Financially**

**I. Introduction**

- A. Malachi 3:8-10 (NAS) <sup>8</sup>*“Will a man rob God? Yet you are robbing Me! But you say, ‘How have we robbed You?’ In tithes and offerings. <sup>9</sup>You are cursed with a curse, for you are robbing Me, the whole nation of you! <sup>10</sup>Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, so that there may be food in My house, and test Me now in this,” says the LORD of hosts, “if I will not open for you the windows of heaven and pour out for you a blessing until it overflows.”*
- B. “Here are the guidelines for handling money.”
1. Earn money ethically.
  2. Spend money wisely.
  3. Avoid destructive debt.
  4. Save money consistently for your future.
  5. Give some money to the poor.
  6. Tithe
- C. “Tithe” -- “Tenth Part”
1. God’s people were to take the first 10% of whatever income came their way, and bring it to their place of worship, as a symbol of their gratefulness to God for Him giving them material blessings.
  2. The tithe was also a means of supporting the different ministries of their worship center.
  3. In Malachi’s day, the financial standards of excellence had plummeted!

**II. Three “Checks” to Becoming a Tither**

- A. A heart check
1. The people who get the most upset are those people who treat money as the most important thing in their life!
  2. Tithing isn’t fundamentally about money!
  3. God gave His very best for you and me! We ought to at least do the minimum required of us to honor that!
  4. Matthew 6:24 (NAS) *“No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth.”*
  5. Matthew 6:19-21 (NAS) <sup>19</sup>*“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. <sup>20</sup>But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves do not break in or steal; <sup>21</sup>for where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”*
- B. A “gut” check
1. Proverbs 3:9-10 (NAS) <sup>9</sup>*Honor the LORD from your wealth and from the first of all your produce; <sup>10</sup>so your barns will be filled with plenty and your vats will overflow with new wine.*
  2. Luke 12:48b (NAS) *“Much is required from those to whom much is given, and much more is required from those to whom much more is given.”*
  3. Obedience always means a lot to God!
- C. A faith check
1. It takes faith to honor God with your money!
  2. Malachi 3:8, 10 (NAS) <sup>8</sup>*“Will a man rob God? Yet you are robbing Me! But you say, ‘How have we robbed You?’ In tithes and offerings. <sup>10</sup>Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, so that there may be food in My house, and test Me now in this,” says the LORD of hosts, “if I will not open for you the windows of heaven and pour out for you a blessing until it overflows.”*

3. Malachi 3:11-12 (NAS) *“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. <sup>12</sup>“All the nations will call you blessed, for you shall be a delightful land,” says the LORD of hosts.*

4. "With God's help, I am never going to rob God again!"

### **III. Conclusion**