

Recap of 12/11/16 (Malachi 3:8-12):

1. Biblical guidelines for giving:

- We should not give only out of our surplus, that which we will never miss. It should cost to give. 2 Sam. 24:18-25
 - Sacrificial giving follows the example of our Savior. 2 Cor. 8:9; 9:15
 - Giving is a response to our spiritual riches. 2 Cor. 8:9
 - Giving is an investment with God. God gives back both physical and spiritual blessings. 2 Cor. 9:6-8,10; Pro. 19:17
 - Giving should be purposeful, a matter of prayer and the guidance of the Holy Spirit. Not a matter of compulsion, pressure or coercion. 2 Cor. 9:7a
 - Giving is not a matter of how much I have, but of my priorities for what I have. God credits the heart amount not the check amount. 2 Cor. 8:1-5,12
 - Giving should be proportionate, "in keeping with our income." 1 Cor 16:2. As income advances, giving should advance, not just lifestyle.
 - Bottom line questions to ask ourselves: "Is giving a vital part of my financial life or do I just tip God?" "How does my spending differ from my non-Christian neighbor?"
2. "C.S. Lewis didn't talk about percentage giving. He said the only safe rule is to give more than we can spare. Our charities should pinch and hamper us. If we live at the same level of affluence as other people who have our level of income, we are probably giving away too little. Obstacles to charity include greed for luxurious living, greed for money itself, fear of financial insecurity, and showy pride." (Lindskoog)
3. "It not how much of my money I give to God, but how much of God's money I keep for myself." (R.G. LeTourneau)