



**Message Two: The Church Only Wants My Money**  
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*There is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies (John 8:44, NIV).*

*No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon. (Matthew 6:24, NKJV)*

Today, we look at another very subtle and easily believed lie of the Devil.

**THE CHURCH NEEDS YOUR MONEY**

God ordained the **tithe** in the Old Testament to provide for the ministry that was done by the priests in the Temple.

*Numbers 18:20-21, The LORD said to Aaron, "You priests will receive no allotment of land or share of property among the people of Israel...As for the tribe of Levi...I will compensate them for their service in the Tabernacle. Instead of an allotment of land, I will give them the tithes from the entire land of Israel. (NLT)*

The **core idea** of this principle was found in the New Testament Church.

1 Corinthians 9:13-14, *Don't you know that those who work in the temple get their food from the temple, and those who serve at the altar share in what is offered on the altar? In the same way, the Lord has commanded that those who preach the gospel should receive their living from the gospel.* (NIV)

God has chosen to entrust the **financial support** of his Kingdom to his people.

Malachi 3:10, *Bring to the storehouse a full tenth of what you earn so there will be food in my house.* (NCV)

## THE CHURCH DOES NOT JUST WANT YOUR MONEY

We are not in the **money-raising** business. We are in the **people-raising** business.

Stewardship is about discipleship, and discipleship is about Lordship.

Growing in generosity is a key aspect of discipleship.

2 Corinthians 8:7-9, *Just as you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in your love for us see that you also excel in this grace of giving. I am not commanding you, but I want to test the sincerity of your love by comparing it with the earnestness of others. For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich.* (NIV)

You grow in the grace of generosity when you view money as a **tool**.

You grow in the grace of generosity when you view money as a **test**.

You grow in the grace of generosity when you view money as a **trademark**.

We do not want your money; we want you to live the blessed life...

...life in covenant partnership with God

...life that consistently experiences the favor of God.

*Philippians 4:14-19, It was good that you helped me when I needed it. You Philippians remember when I first preached the Good News there. When I left Macedonia, you were the only church that gave me help. Several times you sent me things I needed when I was in Thessalonica. Really, it is not that I want to receive gifts from you, but I want you to have the good that comes from giving. And now I have everything, and more. I have all I need, because Epaphroditus brought your gift to me. It is like a sweet-smelling sacrifice offered to God, who accepts that sacrifice and is pleased with it. My God will use his wonderful riches in Christ Jesus to give you everything you need. (NCV)*