

September 3, 2022. Local Church Budget

A Matter of Trust

Appeal: Malachi 3:10

“Test me in this,” says the Lord Almighty, “and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it.”

We worship with our resources because it is a means of trusting God. God’s instructions about soil management in Leviticus 25:3-4 is an example of God’s invitation for His children to trust Him: “For six years sow your fields, and for six years prune your vineyards and gather their crops. But in the seventh year the land is to have a year of sabbath rest, a sabbath to the LORD. Do not sow your fields or prune your vineyards.” We now know some of the benefits of putting the land to rest through knowledge acquired in Agricultural science. In those days, after receiving such an unusual instruction, the Israelites would surely wonder what they would eat in the seventh year if they did not plant or harvest. It was an invitation to trust. Interestingly, there are no reported instances where someone died of starvation for keeping this strange command. God’s order was backed up by a promise, “Follow my decrees and be careful to obey my laws, and you will live safely in the land.”

On one occasion, a pastor accompanied by an elder visited a low-income family of the church. They were gladly welcomed and had a great time fellowshiping together. At some point, the pastor opened the Bible and read Malachi 3:9-10, encouraging the family about faithfulness in giving. Upon completing their visit, the elder shared with the pastor that he was much uncomfortable about the text he read because this family was struggling financially. Gently, but firmly the pastor responded: “I wanted to make sure that they are not missing God’s blessings.”

Have you ever gone through situations where His instructions do not make any sense to you? Remember the words of the hymnal: “Trust and obey, for there’s no other way to be happy in Jesus.”

Prayer: Lord, we thank You for the opportunity we have each new week to sharpen our confidence in You. Increase our faith and thank You for fulfilling Your promises.