

Occupy Hearts Malachi 3:7-12

Introduction – Many things protest for our hearts attention but only God deserves it.

I. Hard hearts/hard times – vv. 7-9

- Blessing or judgment?
- Withholding our gifts/tithes reveals a lack of recognition of God's sovereignty and subjection to it.
- Robbed themselves of God's blessings

II. The solution – v. 10

- Bring in the tithes to the storehouse
- Strange occupant – Nehemiah 13:4-10
- New Testament giving – 1 Corinthians 16:2
 - Regular: "First day"
 - All-inclusive: "Everyone"
 - Systematic: "Lay in store"
 - Proportionate: "As God has prospered"

III. What God will do – v. 11

- Rebuke the locust plague and grape blight
- No wonder they withheld their tithes/ tough times reveal faith

IV. What we will experience – v.12

- Other nations will recognize God's blessing
- The land will bring pleasure to all

Conclusion – How much of God do we want to occupy our church?

2 Corinthians 9:6-7