

# CHURCH OF CHRIST

100 CORNERSTONE ALEXANDER AR, 72002

"CHURCH OF CHRIST MEETING @ 100 CORNERSTONE, ALEXANDER AR. 72002"

TODAY'S LESSON

**"DON'T ROB GOD"**

Malachi 3:8-12

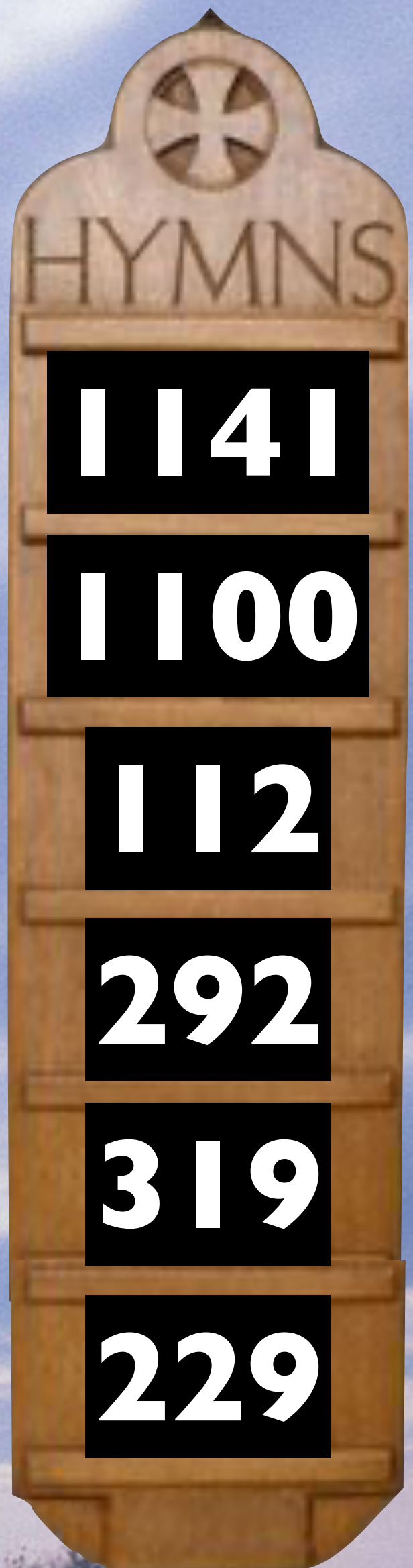
**By James Hamilton**



*Sunday evening lesson live stream*  
**4:00 PM <sup>CDT</sup> December 14, 2025**



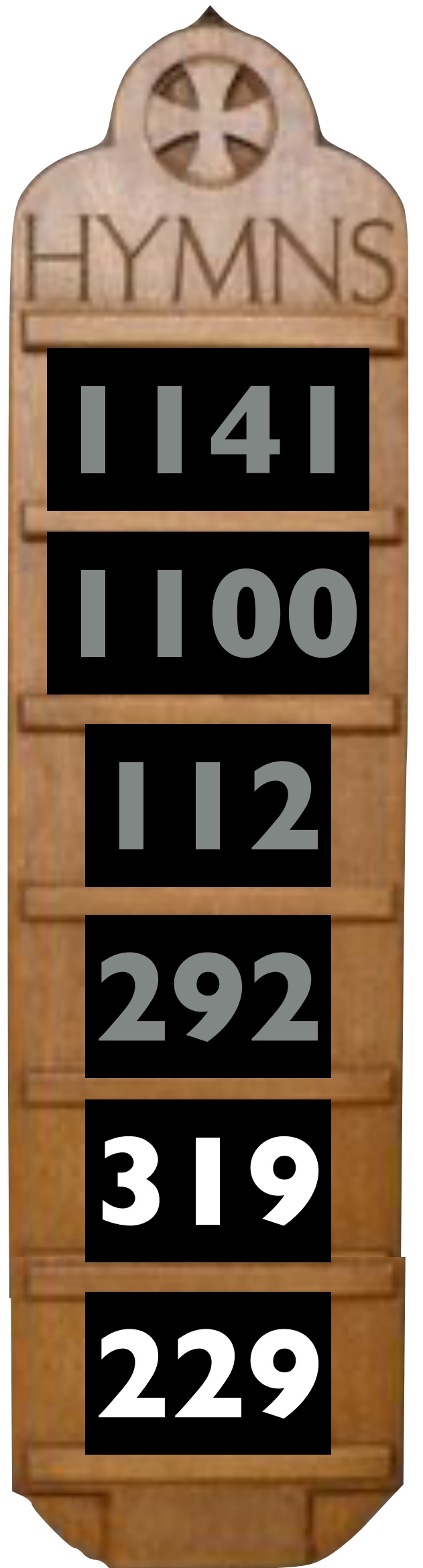
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**DON'T ROB GOD!**

**MALACHI 3:8-12**





## Matthew 22:15-21

**15** Then the Pharisees went and plotted how they might entangle Him in *His* talk. **16** And they sent to Him their disciples with the Herodians, saying, “Teacher, we know that You are true, and teach the way of God in truth; nor do You care about anyone, for You do not regard the person of men. **17** Tell us, therefore, what do You think? **Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar, or not?”**



## Matthew 22:15-21

**18** But Jesus perceived their wickedness, and said, “Why do you test Me, hypocrites?

**19** Show me the money.” So they brought him a denarius.

**20** And He said to them, “**Whose image** and **inscription** is **this**?”

**21** They said to Him, “**Caesar’s**.”

And He said to them, “**Render therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s, and to God the things that are God’s.**”



# Giving to Caesar

Caesar's coin has Caesar's **image** and **name**

**Pay taxes** (not a **law conflict** **Deut. 28:49-52**)

Apostles in the world but not of the world

**John 17:16**

Apostles commanded us to obey every law of man **1 Peter 2:13-17** (except for breaking God's law—**Acts 5:29**)



## 1 Peter 2:13-17

**13** Therefore submit yourselves to **every** ordinance of man for **the Lord's** sake, whether to the king as supreme, **14** or to governors, as to those who are sent by him for the punishment of evildoers and praise of those who do good. **15** For this is the will of God, that by doing good you may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men— **16** as free, yet not using liberty as a cloak for vice, but as bondservants of God. **17** **Honor all. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the king.**



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**Romans 13:1-7**



## Romans 13:1-7

**1** Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God. **2** Therefore whoever resists the authority resists the ordinance of God, and those who resist will bring judgment on themselves. **3** For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to evil. Do you want to be unafraid of the authority? Do what is good, and you will have praise from the same.



## Romans 13:1-7

**4** For he is God's minister to you for good. But if you do evil, be afraid; for he does not bear the sword in vain; for he is God's minister, an avenger to *execute* wrath on him who practices evil **5** Therefore *you* must be subject, not only because of wrath but also for conscience' sake.

## Romans 13:1-7

**6** For because of this you also pay taxes, for they are God's ministers attending continually to this very thing. **7** Render therefore to all their due: **taxes** to whom **taxes**, **customs** to whom **customs**, **fear** to whom **fear**, **honor** to whom **honor**.



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**Give taxes, customs, fear, honor**

# Giving by God

Remnant returned, furnished their paneled houses, finally finished the temple; the Jews were comfortable

Temple service became regular routine

**Malachi** is the last book of the Old Testament (late 5<sup>th</sup> Century B.C.)

Perfect segue to the first books of the New Testament

The message: **DON'T ROB GOD!**



# Israel Was Robbing God

**1:2-5** by questioning His love and His  
righteousness **2:17; Rom. 5:8; 3:26**

## Romans 3:23-26

<sup>24</sup> being justified freely by **His grace** through the redemption that is in **Christ Jesus** <sup>25</sup> **whom God** set forth *as* a propitiation by **His blood**, through faith, **to demonstrate His righteousness...**

## Romans 5:8

But **God demonstrates His own love toward us**, in that while we were still sinners, **Christ died for us**.



# Israel Was Robbing God

1:2-5 by questioning His love and His righteousness 2:17; Rom. 5:8; 3:26

1:6-14 by their actions and attitudes toward “worshipping” God Matt. 15:8-9  
compared to honor for father v.6 and governor v.8

2:1-9 “priests” example led people AWAY FROM God instead of TO God James 3:1

2:10-16 by misusing His gifts to them 1 Peter 3:7

# Israel Was Robbing God

**3:1-7** future messenger to command  
repentance **v.7** before the Lord Jesus comes  
also **4:5-6**; **Mark 1:2-3**; **Matt. 11:10,14**

## Matthew 7:11-15

**7** As they departed, Jesus began to say to the multitudes concerning John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? **8** But what did you go out to see? A man clothed in soft garments? Indeed, those who wear soft *clothing* are in kings’ houses. **9** But what did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I say to you, and more than a prophet. **10** For this is *he* of whom it is written: ‘Behold, **I send My messenger before Your face, Who will prepare Your way before You.**’”



## Matthew 7:11-15

**11** “Assuredly, I say to you, among those born of women there has not risen one greater than John the Baptist; but he who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he. **12** And from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffers violence, and the violent take it by force. **13** For **all the prophets and the law prophesied until John.** **14** And if you are willing to receive *it*, **he is Elijah** who is to come.”

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repentance **v.7** before the Lord Jesus comes

also **4:5-6**; **Mark 1:2-3**; **Matt. 11:7-15**

**v.2-3** allude to transfiguration and more from  
**Zechariah 13**

**3:8-12** by not giving according to God's word

**3:13-15** by criticizing God

**3:16-18** God will reward those who didn't  
agree with God's critics

**4:1-6** John preceeds coming judgment A.D.70



# Giving to God

What do we have that belongs to God?

Whatever has His image Genesis 1:26-27

Whatever has His name Ephesians 3:14-15

Give nothing less than your whole being!

Ecclesiastes 12:13; Deuteronomy 6:4-5;

Matthew 22:37-39; Romans 12:1

Satan will try to separate us from God by  
getting us to give less than He is worthy  
(less love, less trust, less time, less effort)

