

Sermon Outline November 6, 2016

"Our Unchanging God" Malachi 3:1-7

"For I am the LORD, I do not change; therefore you are not consumed, O sons of Jacob. (Malachi 3:6 NKJ)

It is important to understand this verse in its context. It seemed God's people were feeling unloved by God – Malachi 1:1-3.

These are those people who left Babylon and Persia to rebuild the Temple. They might have thought themselves the best of the best, as other Israelites were still living in the lands where they had been taken captive, and more comfortably!

These had rebuilt the Temple and were waiting for God to descend in glory as He did both in the tabernacle and Solomon's Temple. They felt short-changed, unloved by God. They felt maybe God had CHANGED? Maybe He did not love them anymore?

If God seems far away, guess who moved! God does not change, we change:

1. *Malachi shows us the changeableness, the mutability, the weakness of God's People - ... O sons of Jacob. (Malachi 3:6 NKJ)*

Jacob was Jacob's name before He became Israel. It was a name that represented him as SINFUL, and Israel was sinful!

1. *The priests showed they despised God's Name by offering unfit offerings / sacrifices – Malachi 1:6-12*
2. *They counted the work, service, worship of the Lord "weariness" boring – Malachi 1:13*
3. *The people thought they could get away with offering less than their best to the LORD and the priests let them get away with this – Malachi 1:14*
4. *In the past, Levi, the priests, in the wilderness did BETTER – Malachi 2:1-9*
5. *He calls the men to task for divorcing their faithful wives – Malachi 2:14-16*
6. *He challenges them generally for calling evil good –*

You have wearied the LORD with your words; Yet you say, "In what way have we wearied Him?" In that you say, "Everyone who does evil is good in the sight of the LORD, And He delights in them," Or, "Where is the God of justice?" (Malachi 2:17 NKJ)

Though the Levite in the wilderness was far from perfect, he was better than these, and even those Levites did not have EASE –

"And you shall remember that the LORD your God led you all the way these forty years in the wilderness, to humble you and test you, to know what was in your heart, whether you would keep His commandments or not.³ "So He humbled you, allowed you to hunger, and fed you with manna which you did not know nor did your fathers know, that He might make you know that man shall not live by bread alone; but man lives by every word that proceeds from the mouth of the LORD. (Deuteronomy 8:2-3 NKJ) God was present with Israel in the wilderness, but they did not have a bed of ease!

- II. *God does not change, He will NEVER go easy on sin, He is unchanging in His righteousness –*

"For I am the LORD, I do not change ... (Malachi 3:6 NKJ)

When He does come to the Temple, how will He come?

"Behold, I send My messenger, And he will prepare the way before Me. And the Lord, whom you seek, Will suddenly come to His temple, Even the Messenger of the covenant, In whom you delight. Behold, He is coming," Says the LORD of hosts.² "But who can endure the day of His coming? And who can stand when He appears? For He is like a refiner's fire and like launderer's soap.³ He will sit as a refiner and a purifier of silver; He will purify the sons of Levi, and purge them as gold and silver, That they may offer to the LORD An offering in righteousness.⁴ "Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem Will be pleasant to the LORD, As in the days of old, As in former years.⁵ And I will come near you for judgment; I will be a swift witness Against sorcerers, Against adulterers, Against perjurers, Against those who exploit wage earners and widows and orphans, And against those who turn away an alien-- Because they do not fear Me," Says the LORD of hosts. (Malachi 3:1-5 NKJ)

1. *A reference to Jesus' trips to the Temple was He happy when He found the money-changer there?*

Now the Passover of the Jews was at hand, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem.¹⁴ And He found in the temple those who sold oxen and sheep and doves, and the moneychangers doing business.¹⁵ When He had made a whip of cords, He drove them all out of the temple, with the sheep and the oxen, and poured out the changers' money and overturned the tables.¹⁶ And He said to those who sold doves, "Take these things away! Do not make My Father's house a house of merchandise!"¹⁷ Then His disciples remembered that it was written, "Zeal for Your house has eaten Me up." (John 2:13-17 NKJ)

2. *Were the Apostles and early Christians who loved God and*

pampered group? Were they LOVED by God and Jesus Christ?

Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? *Shall* tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? ³⁶ As it is written: "For Your sake we are killed all day long; We are accounted as sheep for the slaughter." ³⁷ Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. ³⁸ For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, ³⁹ nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Romans 8:35-39 NKJ)

A. *Our God is like a refiner's fire and launderer's soap –*

- *He cleanses us with His own blood –*

and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler over the kings of the earth. To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood, (Revelation 1:5 NKJ)

- *He baptizes with the Holy Spirit and fire –*

"I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance, but He who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. (Matthew 3:11 NKJ)

But He knows the way that I take; When He has tested me, I shall come forth as gold. (Job 23:10 NKJ)

In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials, ⁷ that the genuineness of your faith, *being* much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ, ⁸ whom having not seen you love. Though now you do not see *Him*, yet believing, you rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory, ⁹ receiving the end of your faith-- the salvation of *your* souls. (1 Peter 1:6-9 NKJ)

B. *He would make us His jewels –*

"They shall be Mine," says the LORD of hosts, "On the day that I make them My jewels. And I will spare them As a man spares his own son who serves him." ¹⁸ Then you shall again discern Between the righteous and the wicked, Between one who serves God And one who does not serve Him. (Malachi 3:17-18 NKJ)

III. *God is unchanging in His very being, immutable*

–

Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning. (James 1:17 NKJ)

Of old You laid the foundation of the earth, And the heavens *are* the work of Your hands. ²⁶ They will perish, but You will endure; Yes, they will all grow old like a garment; Like a cloak You will change them, And they will be changed. ²⁷ But You *are* the same, And Your years will have no end. (Psalm 102:25-27 NKJ)

1. *God has no bad days, never is He less than absolute bright and glorious perfection!*
2. *Even the most seemingly stable thing in the world will grow old and die, but God never changes!*

IV. *God is unchanging in His love, covenant promises and patience toward us who are saved –*

"For I *am* the LORD, I do not change; therefore you are not consumed, O sons of Jacob. (Malachi 3:6 NKJ)

They are new every morning; Great is Your faithfulness. ²⁴ "The LORD *is* my portion," says my soul, "Therefore I hope in Him!" ²⁵ The LORD *is* good to those who wait for Him, To the soul *who* seeks Him. ²⁶ *It is good that one* should hope and wait quietly For the salvation of the LORD. (Lamentations 3:23-26 NKJ)

Why should a living man complain, A man for the punishment of his sins? (Lamentations 3:39 NKJ)

For the Son of God, Jesus Christ, who was preached among you by us-- by me, Silvanus, and Timothy-- was not Yes and No, but in Him was Yes. ²⁰ For all the promises of God in Him *are* Yes, and in Him Amen, to the glory of God through us. (2 Corinthians 1:19-20 NKJ)

How should we interpret things when God seems to have us under the foot of providence rather than bouncing on His knee? ---

And you have forgotten the exhortation which speaks to you as to sons: "My son, do not despise the chastening of the LORD, Nor be discouraged when you are rebuked by Him; ⁶ For whom the LORD loves He chastens, And scourges every son whom He receives." ⁷ If you endure chastening, God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom a father does not chasten? ⁸ But if you are without chastening, of which all have become partakers, then you are illegitimate and not sons. (Hebrews 12:5-8 NKJ)

Arnold Brevick