

The Value of True Worship
Malachi 1:1-2:9 (L1)
By Russell Earl

Thesis: I want to show some of the lessons we can learn from this section of Malachi.

- Intro: 1. Malachi begins by referencing his charge as a burden. (v.1)
a. This doesn't mean he was unwilling to proclaim God's Word instead it's a reference to the burden put upon him by those who despise God's Word.

I. God still loves Israel (1:2-5)

- A. God's love for them (v.2)
1. God loved the people, had blessed them continually, yet said "in what way?" (v.2)
2. God loves the righteous, He only despises the wicked.
B. God will tear down the attempts of the wicked (v.3-5)
1. Esau is used as an example of what he hated, rebellion and disregard for what is good before God.
2. God will come down on every act of the wicked (v.4), their eyes will see the power of God (v.5)

II. Priests are called out for neglect and indifference (1:6-2:9)

- A. The Lord says...(1:6ff)
1. (v.6a) Where is my honor?
2. (v.7a,12) You offer defiled food
3. (v.8a) You offer what others would reject
4. (v.13) Your attitude is wrong
B. But you say...
1. (v.6b) They deny dishonor God
2. (v.7b) They deny defiling the Lord's table
3. (v.8b) They are pleased offering to God what is rejected by others
4. (v.14) They were dishonest, withheld the best from God, and gave the blemished instead.
C. Entreat the Lord's favor (v.9-11)
1. They will not be acceptable to God until they ended their vain worship.
2. Their worship was all show and no truth or sincerity, as a result it was rejected by God.

III. Punishment & warnings (2:1-9)

1. (2:1-3) To the priests, a curse has already began and will remain until change takes place.
2. (2:4-7) What they should be doing, Levi is used as an example, they were obedient to God, unlike them.
3. (2:8-9) They had departed from the way, as a result they were punished.
a. They had made the worship of God contemptible and now God had made them contemptible before all the people.

IV. Lessons for us today.

A. God loves the righteous (1:2)

1. God loves the faithful, this is a reminder that God has loved those who loved Him.
2. God is good to the righteous (Psalm 37:25)

B. God demands proper attitudes towards Him and worship of Him

1. God demands honor, respect, and truthfulness.
2. God did not accept worship from those who had no desire to worship God properly, their vain worship was rejected (1:10), nothing has changed today (Mt 15:8-9).

Application & Conclusion:

1. Insincerity and lack of true effort towards God are not tolerated.
2. Man has a delusional idea that God can be fooled, man only continues to be proven wrong, over and over.
 - a. We must learn from the foolish acts of others.
3. Full Invitation

Non-Christians must:

Hear – James 1:22, Romans 10:15,17

Believe – Jn 12:44, Jn 8:24, Mt 16:16

Repent – Luke 13:2-3

Confess – John 12:42, Romans 10:9

Be Baptized – 1 Pt 3:21, Acts 22:16, Col 2:11, Mk 16:16, Rom 6:3-4

Live faithfully – John 14:15, Rev 2:10

Christians must:

Repent: Acts 17:20, Acts 8:37, Lk 13:3

Pray: James 5:16, 1 Jn 1:9