

“The Call to Recognize God’s Love in Our Lives” 1/07/18

Malachi 1:1-5

Sermon Series- “*Malachi- Overcoming Spiritual Indifference and Complacency*”

Big Idea- We must love God fully as we, in humility, recognize that God has fully demonstrated His love toward us in the past, present, and will in the future.

“For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope” (Rom 15:4; cf. 1 Cor 10:11)

LESSON 1- We need to recognize: God’s love began in the PAST

- A. Before God admonishes them, He affirms His LOVE
(**Deut 7:6-8; 9:4-8**; Luke 17:7-10; Rom 3:10-18; 5:8; 1 Cor 1)
- B. The Israelites demanded proof that God truly loved them. *Do we?*
- C. God reminds them that He has loved them from the BEGINNING
(Gen 25:22-34; Jer 31:3; **Rom 9:6-13; 8:29-30**; Hate- Ps 5:5; 11:5)

“Just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love.” Ephesians 1:4 (cf. Rev 13:8; 17:8)

LESSON 2- We need to recognize: God’s love continues in the PRESENT

- A. God’s love is recognized with the proper PERSPECTIVE
(Jeremiah 49:7-22; Ezekiel 25:12-14; Obadiah 1:1-21)

“Because of the LORD's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail.” Lamentations 3:22 (NIV)

- B. Are you appreciating and celebrating your blessings as proof of His love?
(Acts 5:41; 14:22; Phil 1:29; James 1:2-12; Phil 3:10; 2 Cor 1:5)

“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.” Jas 1:17

LESSON 3- We need to recognize: God’s love is assured in the FUTURE

- A. God assures Israel that they will see His love and REJOICE
- B. God assures us that we never be separated from His love (Rom 8:28-31)

Going Deeper *God desires for us to move beyond questioning His love to embracing it!*