

“The Call to Love God Completely” 1/21/18

Malachi 2:1-9

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

Big Idea- As Christian priests (Rev 1:6; 1 Pet 2:5-9) we are to love God with all our heart and look to be an example to the world around us who is definitely watching!

“Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ” 2 Corinthians 5:20

LESSON 1- To love God completely is to have zeal for His NAME Vv. 1-3

- A. God’s command is for all who are in full-time MINISTRY
- B. It is God’s desire that we have a love for bringing Him GLORY
- C. He has promised to judge by taking away our BLESSINGS

Not giving glory to God: 1) Isaiah 42:8; 2) Rom 1:21; 3) 2 Samuel 12:14

Giving glory to God begins with an attitude of recognizing His Greatness:

1) Recognizing His might acts (Matt 9:8); 2) Verbal Praise (Ps 86:9); 3) Having faith (Rom 4:20); 4) Using gifts (Matt 5:16; 1 Pet 4:11); 5) Faithfulness in ministry service (2 Cor 8:19); 6) Sexual purity (1 Cor 6:18-20); 7) Persecution (John 21:19)

“But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.” Matthew 6:33

LESSON 2- To love God completely is to have zeal for His WORD Vv. 4-9

- A. God’s desire was for his blessings to CONTINUE
- B. They had no excuse because their ancestors were OBEDIENT
- C. They had ignored God’s word and so they were JUDGED

Ways in which we dishonor God’s Word: 1) Ignore / Indifferent; 2) Twist it to say what we want (context); 3) Deny it’s authority; 4) Deny it sufficiency (2 Tim 3:17)

Ways in which we can demonstrate zeal for His Word: 1) Study it (2 Tim 2:15); 2) Obey it (John 14:15, 21); 3) Hide it in our heart through memorization (Psalm 119:11; 2 Cor 10:4-5); 4) Share it (Romans 10:17)

“I will worship toward Your holy temple, And praise Your name For Your lovingkindness and Your truth; For You have magnified Your word above all Your name.” Psalm 138:2

“Oh, how I love Your law! It is my meditation all the day.” Psalm 119:97

“So Jesus was saying to those Jews who had believed Him, “If you continue in My Word, then you are truly My disciples”” (John 8:31)

Going Deeper God desires for us to continue to be zealous for Him in all of our life!

A zealous person in his faith is pre-eminently a person of one thing. It is not enough to say that he is earnest, hearty, uncompromising, thorough-going, whole-hearted, or even fervent in spirit. He only sees one thing, he cares for one thing, he lives for one thing, he is swallowed up in one thing; and that one thing is to please God. Whether he lives, or whether he dies—whether he has health, or whether he has sickness—whether he is rich, or whether he is poor—whether he pleases man, or whether he gives offence—whether he is thought wise, or whether he is thought foolish—whether he gets blame, or whether he gets praise—whether he gets honor, or whether he gets shame—for all this the zealous man cares nothing at all; except that of pleasing His God.

²⁹ 'Oh that they had such a heart in them, that they would fear Me and keep all My commandments always, that it may be well with them and with their sons forever!
(Deu 5:1 NAU)

¹² "And now, Israel, what does the LORD your God require of you, but to fear the LORD your God, to walk in all His ways and to love Him, to serve the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul,

¹³ "*and* to keep the commandments of the LORD and His statutes which I command you today for your good? (Deu 10:12-13 NKJ)