

The Heart in Worship,

OUR EXPRESSIONS IN WORSHIP

Malachi 1:4-14

There is a problem with learning that Christians are to walk in the truth:

If there is no one to tell us how to do it, it falls upon us to figure it out. How do we walk in the truth? (My intent and goal is to prepare you.)

Last Sunday, I we saw that to succeed as Christians, we must evaluate our commitment to Jesus, and the degree by which we are willing to perform surgery on our life's activities.

This Sunday, we began to examine what we are willing to add, to attach or modify in our activities.

Eg: Jesus told us that those who worship God the Almighty, must worship Him in spirit and in truth. Sounds great, open, and refreshingly free, but how is it done? Do we worship as we please, doing what we enjoy doing?

The intent of this series in the prophets, is the goal, to give indications for how we can begin to adjust the way we live, in order to produce the way I want to live.

Presupposes that I have the motivation in my heart to do what is right and good, period.

Without the often human motives of impressing people, making money, etc.. Given a new motivation. Unlike the old sin nature (having been made righteous) I have new desires, new goals to achieve in my life.

Wanting to do good, what do I need to adjust? How can I do it?

MALACHI

1 The oracle of the word of the Lord to Israel through Malachi.

2 “I have loved you,” says the Lord. **But you say, “How have You loved us?”**
“Was not Esau Jacob’s brother?” declares the Lord. “Yet I have loved Jacob; 3 but I have hated Esau, and I have made his mountains a desolation and appointed his inheritance for the jackals of the wilderness.”

MALACHI.b

4 Though Edom says, “We have been beaten down, but **we will return** and build up the ruins”; thus says the Lord of hosts, “They may build, **but I will tear down**; and men will call them the wicked territory, and the **people toward whom the Lord is indignant forever.**” 5 Your eyes will see this and you will say, “The Lord be magnified beyond the border of Israel!”

MALACHI.c

6 “ ‘A son **honors his father**, and a servant his master. Then if I am a father, where is My honor? And if I am a master, where is My **respect?**’ says the Lord of hosts to you, O **priests who despise My name**. But you say, ‘**How have we** despised Your name?’ 7 You are presenting defiled food upon My altar. But you say, ‘**How have we** defiled You?’ In that you say, ‘**The table of the Lord is to be despised.**’ 8 But when you present the blind for sacrifice, is it not evil? And when you present the lame and sick, is it not evil?

MALACHI.d

Why not **offer it to your governor**? Would he be pleased with you? Or would he receive you kindly?” says the Lord of hosts. 9 “But now will you not **entreat God’s favor**, that He may **be gracious to us**? With such an offering on your part, **will He** receive any of you kindly?” says the Lord of hosts. 10 “Oh that there were **one among you who would shut the gates**, that you might not uselessly kindle fire on My altar! **I am not pleased with you,**” says the Lord of hosts, “nor will I accept an offering from you.

MALACHI.e

11 For from the rising of the sun even to its setting, **My name will be great** among the nations, and in every place incense is going to be offered to My name, and a grain offering that is pure; for My name will be great among the nations,” says the Lord of hosts. 12 “**But you** are profaning it, in that you say, ‘**The table of the Lord** is defiled, and as for its fruit, its food is to be despised.’

MALACHI.f

13 You also say, ‘My, how **tiresome** it is!’
And you **disdainfully sniff** at it,” says the
Lord of hosts, “and you bring what was
taken by **robbery** and what is **lame or sick**;
so you bring the offering! Should I receive
that from your hand?” says the Lord. 14
“But cursed be the **swindler** who has a male
in his flock and vows it, but sacrifices a
blemished animal to the Lord, for I am a
great King,” says the Lord of hosts, “and My
name is feared among the nations.”

²³ But an hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for such people the Father seeks to be His worshipers.

- **What kind of a worshipper do you want to be?**
 - A Theophilus?? To show and express my love for God
 - To truly honor and show respect toward my God?
- **Thoughtfully consider that, before deciding **how** you will approach God on Sundays**
 - Do those motivations control my appearance and demeanor?
 - Are the things I do, and the words I say, True?