

MONITORING OUR RELATIONSHIP TO GOD

MALACHI 3:7-15

OUR SANCTIFICATION

- We **were** made righteous with a new heart.
- We are to **change our behavior** so that we would be acting righteous.
- God's truth **reveals** how or what to change.

MALACHI 3aa

3 He will sit as a smelter and purifier of silver, and He will purify the sons of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, **so that** they may present to the Lord offerings in righteousness. 4 Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem **will be pleasing to the Lord** as in the days of old and as in former years.

MALACHI 3a

⁵ “Then I will draw near to you for judgment; and I will be a swift witness against the sorcerers and against the adulterers and against those who swear falsely, and against those who oppress the wage earner in his wages, the widow and the orphan, and those who turn aside the alien and do not fear Me,” says the LORD of hosts. ⁶ “For I, the LORD, do not change; therefore you, O sons of Jacob, are not consumed.

MALACHI 3

7 “From the days of your fathers you have turned aside from My statutes and have not kept *them*. **Return to Me**, and I will return to you,” says the LORD of hosts. “But you say, ‘**How** shall we return?’

8 “Will a man **rob God**? Yet you are robbing Me! But you say, ‘How have we robbed You?’ **In tithes and offerings.** 9 You are cursed with a curse, for you are robbing Me, the whole nation *of you!*

AMOS 4

⁸ “So two or three cities would stagger to another city to drink water, but would not be satisfied;

Yet you have not returned to Me,” declares the LORD.

⁹ “I smote you with scorching *wind* and mildew;

And the caterpillar was devouring your many gardens and vineyards, fig trees and olive trees;

Yet you have not returned to Me,” declares the LORD.

¹⁰ “I sent a plague among you after the manner of Egypt; I slew your young men by the sword along with your captured horses,

And I made the stench of your camp rise up in your nostrils;

Yet you have not returned to Me,” declares the LORD.

MALACHI 3b

¹⁰ Bring the **whole tithe** into the storehouse, **so that there may be food** in My house, **and test Me** now in this,” says the LORD of hosts, “if **I will** not **open** for you the windows of heaven and pour out for you a blessing until it overflows. ¹¹ Then I will rebuke the devourer for you, so that it will not destroy the fruits of the ground; nor will your vine in the field cast *its grapes*,” says the LORD of hosts. ¹² “All the nations will call you blessed, for you shall be a delightful land.” says the LORD of

HAGGAI 1

⁵ Now therefore, thus says the LORD of hosts, “**Consider your ways!** ⁶ You have sown much, but harvest little; *you* eat, but *there is not enough* to be satisfied; *you* drink, but *there is not enough* to become drunk; *you* put on clothing, but no one is warm *enough*; and **he who earns, earns wages to put into a purse with holes.**”

MALACHI 3c

¹³ “Your words have been arrogant against Me,” says the LORD. “Yet you say, ‘What have we spoken against You?’

¹⁴ You have said, ‘**It is vain to serve God;** and what profit is it that we have kept His charge, and that we have walked in **mourning** before the LORD of hosts?

¹⁵ So now we call the arrogant blessed; not only are the doers of wickedness built up but they also test God and escape.’”

R.G. LeTOURNEAU

“If there is no logical explanation of my development of the **digger**, there is a theological one, available to all of us, including the weakest. By **accepting God as your partner**, no limit can be placed on what can be achieved. But God is no remote partner, satisfied if you go to church on Sunday and drop some religious money -the small change that goes to church- on the platter. He isn't overwhelmed if you read the Bible once in a while and obey the Golden Rule.

R.G. LeTourneau

That isn't active Christianity, but just a half-hearted way of getting along. When you go into partnership with God, you've got a Partner closer and more active than any human partner you can ever get. He participates fully in everything you let Him do, and when you start putting on airs, and thinking you're doing it with your own head of steam, He can set you down quicker and harder than a thunderbolt. There's nothing dull about being in partnership with God."

MALACHI 3

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8 “Will a man **rob God**? Yet you are robbing Me! But you say, ‘How have we robbed You?’ **In tithes and offerings.** 9 You are cursed with a curse, for you are robbing Me, the whole nation *of you!*