

A Credible Faith

Lesson 6

Malachi 2:17-3:5

July 11, 2021

Credibility Gap in Being Ready for the Coming Christ

Introduction

In Malachi 2:17, the Lord says that Israel has wearied Him by saying “all who do evil are good in the eyes of the Lord,” and “He is pleased with them” or “where is the God of justice?” These arguments say that the Lord looks favorably upon sinners because He seems to bless them and let them do what they want.

In verse 5, the Lord points to many of the sins that will come to justice in the final days. Nothing is forgotten when judgment comes because God cannot tolerate any sin. He cannot accept any injustice. It has to be addressed.

In reading this list of evil deeds, and any other list of sinful acts throughout the Bible, we should be slow to judge those who commit them because we, too, are included in this list. God is not only pointing out the faults and shortcomings of our enemies but of us as well.

The Bible says God hates all evildoers. (Psalm 5:5) That includes you and me. Now we might see the word hate and think it harsh, but it denotes the magnitude of God’s hatred toward sin. We cannot diminish how detestable sin is to God!

Yet, in His infinite mercy, we are allowed to be judged based not on our shortcomings. Not according to His hatred of sin, but on the fulfillment of perfection, that is Christ. What amazing news this is to us! Instead of being destined for our deserved Hell, we instead receive unearned salvation! We deserve Hell. We deserve God’s wrath, yet He loved us enough to allow us to come to Him anytime as spotless lambs.

Memory verse: “See, I will send the prophet Elijah to you before that great and dreadful day of the Lord comes. He will turn the hearts of the parents to their children and the hearts of the children to their parents; or else I will come and strike the land with total destruction.”—Malachi 4:5-6

Pray and read Malachi 2:17-3:5. What questions or observations do you have about this passage?

What does the passage say?

1. Who is wearied with Judah’s words? (Malachi 2:17)
2. How was Judah wearying God? (Malachi 2:17)
3. What will the messenger do? (Malachi 3:1)
4. What will the Lord do when he comes? (Malachi 3:2)
5. Who is mentioned that will be purified by gold and silver? (Malachi 3:3)
6. What is it that will be acceptable to the Lord? (Malachi 3:3-4)

7. Against what is it that the Lord will be quick to testify?
(Malachi 3:5)

What does the passage mean?

1. To whom was this prophesy intended? (Malachi 1:1)
What was the purpose of God's words through Malachi?
(Malachi 1:6-8, 2:1-4, 11)

2. It may seem to the Israelites that their enemies are allowed to do whatever they wish, but there will come a day when the Lord's justice wins out. What makes God the one who can rightly bring justice? (Genesis 3:15; Revelation 20:11-21) What is our part if we are not to enact justice for ourselves? (Mark 12:31; 1 Corinthians 5:12-13)

3. We read about all of the major heroes in the Bible, yet none were saved based on their works. Every one of them was saved because of their faith alone. How can this bring comfort to our lives? (Romans 3:10, 3:23)

3. We are all sinners in need of a loving Savior to rescue us. Only faith in Jesus and His work on the cross can save us. That's it. If you want to commit your life to Him, reach out to one of our pastors who would love to talk to you more about a relationship with Jesus that would change your life! And write out a prayer below asking Him to keep changing you.