

September 1, 2019

“Who Cares? – Malachi: God’s Wake-Up Call”

A Series in the Book of Malachi

“Who Cares? – God; God’s Faithfulness Matters”

*“But for you who fear My name,
the Sun of Righteousness will rise with healing
in His wings. And you will go free, leaping with joy
like calves let out to pasture.” Malachi 4:2*

A. What difference does it make in our lives if we follow God?

“You have said, ‘What’s the use of serving God? What have we gained by obeying His commands or by trying to show the LORD of Heaven’s Armies that we are sorry for our sins?’” Vs 3:14

1. God was aware of their whining and complaining.

“You have said terrible things about Me,’ says the Lord.” Vs 3:13a

2. Seven times throughout Malachi, they have denied their wrongdoing.

“But you say, ‘What do You mean? What have we said against You?’” Vs 3:13b

3. Their faith had become a drudgery; they saw no benefit to serving God; their judgment of all things was only seeing the present and the direct results.

“You have said, ‘What’s the use of serving God? What have we gained by obeying His commands or by trying to show the LORD of Heaven’s Armies that we are sorry for our sins? From now on we will call the arrogant blessed. For those who do evil get rich, and those who dare God to punish them suffer no harm.’” Vs 3:14-15

4. They had lost sight that there is more to this life than this life...God has many promises that await us!

“All these people died still believing what God had promised them. They did not receive what was promised, but they saw it all from a distance and welcomed it. They agreed that they were foreigners and nomads here on earth. Obviously people who say such things are looking forward to a country they can call their own. If they had longed for the country they came from, they could have gone back. But they were looking for a better place, a heavenly homeland. That is why God is not ashamed to be called their God, for He has prepared a city for them.” Hebrews 11:13-16

B. God is faithful and His promises are for us who fear His name...

“But for you who fear My name...” Vs 4:2a

1. God promises the rising Sun. Sun will bring light where darkness exists. He will bring security where danger exists.

“... the Sun of Righteousness will rise...” Vs 4:2b

2. God promises the beams of Righteousness will shine. Jesus will make all things right.

“... the Sun of Righteousness will rise...” Vs 4:2b

3. God promises healing in His wings. There is a time coming where all sickness, all pain, all sorrow, and all crying will be gone forever.

“...with healing in His wings.” Vs 4:2c

4. God promises freedom for all. The Truth will set us free!

“And you will go free...” Vs 4:2d

5. God promises joy as we follow Him.

“... leaping with joy like calves let out to pasture.” Vs 4:2e

C. What will your decision be?

1. Will you choose to suffer God’s judgment?

“The LORD of Heaven’s Armies says, ‘The day of judgment is coming, burning like a furnace. On that day the arrogant

and the wicked will be burned up like straw. They will be consumed— roots, branches, and all.” Vs 4:1

“Look, I am sending you the prophet Elijah before the great and dreadful day of the LORD arrives. His preaching will turn the hearts of fathers to their children, and the hearts of children to their fathers. Otherwise I will come and strike the land with a curse.” Vs 4:5-6

2. Will you choose to serve Him?

“But for you who fear my name...” Vs 4:2a

3. Will you choose to revere God?

“But for you who fear my name...” Vs 4:2a

4. Will you choose to be rewarded by God?

“Then those who feared the LORD spoke with each other...” Vs 3:16

- God listens!

“...and the LORD listened to what they said.” Vs 3:16a

- God remembers!

“In His presence, a scroll of remembrance was written to record the names of those who feared Him and always thought about the honor of His name.” Vs 3:16b

- God claims us!

“‘They will be My people,’ says the LORD of Heaven’s Armies.” Vs 3:17a

- God treasures us!

“On the day when I act in judgment, they will be My own special treasure.” Vs 3:17b

- God spares us!

“I will spare them as a father spares an obedient child.” Vs 3:17c

5. Will you choose to remember God’s commandments and His faithfulness?

“Remember to obey the Law of Moses, My servant— all the decrees and regulations that I gave him on Mount Sinai for all Israel.” Vs 4:4

“If you love Me, obey My commandments.”

“Jesus replied, ‘All who love Me will do what I say. My Father will love them, and we will come and make our home with each of them.’” John 14:15, 23

“We know we love God’s children if we love God and obey His commandments.” 1 John 5:2