

***Do We Serve  
A Fair  
God?***

***Malachi 2:17-3:6***

## Malachi 2:17-3:6

**17** Ye have wearied the LORD with your words. Yet ye say, Wherein have we wearied him? When ye say, Every one that doeth evil is good in the sight of the LORD, and he delighteth in them; or, Where is the God of judgment?

**3:1** Behold, I will send my messenger, and he shall prepare the way before me: and the LORD, whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to his temple, even the messenger of the covenant, whom ye delight in: behold, he shall come, saith the LORD of hosts.

**2** But who may abide the day of his coming? and who shall stand when he appeareth? for he is like a refiner's fire, and like fullers' soap:

## **Malachi 2:17-3:6 - continued**

**3 And he shall sit as a refiner and purifier of silver: and he shall purify the sons of Levi, and purge them as gold and silver, that they may offer unto the LORD an offering in righteousness.**

**4 Then shall the offering of Judah and Jerusalem be pleasant unto the LORD, as in the days of old, and as in former years.**

**5 And I will come near to you to judgment; and I will be a swift witness against the sorcerers, and against the adulterers, and against false swearers, and against those that oppress the hireling in his wages, the widow, and the fatherless, and that turn aside the stranger from his right, and fear not me, saith the LORD of hosts.**

**Malachi 2:17-3:6 - continued**

**6 For I am the LORD, I change not; therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed.**

# **I. The People Question the Justice of God (2:17)**

## **A. Their arguments wearied God**

- 1. They had argued with God concerning worship**
- 2. They had argued with God concerning sacrifice**
- 3. They had argued with God concerning personal relationships**
- 4. They had argued with God concerning marriage**

# **I. The People Question the Justice of God (2:17)**

## **B. Their arguments questioned God's character**

### **Psalm 5:4**

**For thou art not a God that hath pleasure in wickedness:  
neither shall evil dwell with thee.**

- 1. They attacked the holiness of God**
- 2. They attacked the delights of God**
- 3. They attacked the longsuffering of God**  
**“...Where is the God of judgment?”**

## **II. God Announces His Coming Justice (3:1)**

**A. He declared there would be a time of preparation**

**1. Fulfilled in John the Baptist**

**2. Fulfilled in a call to repentance**

**B. He declared the arrival of the Justifier**

**1. They were given the One they sought**

**2. Justice began at the house of God**

**“... and the LORD, whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to his temple,”**

## **II. God Announces His Coming Justice (3:1)**

### **C. He declared the surety of His coming**

#### **1. By the Word of God**

**“... behold, he shall come, saith the LORD of hosts.”**

#### **2. By the angels of God**

**Acts 1:11**

**Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven.**



## **II. God Announces His Coming Justice (3:1)**

**C. He declared the surety of His coming - continued**

**3. By the Son of God Himself**

**John 14:3**

**And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.**

**Revelation 22:20**

**He which testifieth these things saith, Surely I come quickly. Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus.**

# **III. God Announces the Intentions of His Justice**

## **(3:2-5)**

**A. He declared that believers will be judged (vv 2-4)**

**1. Our judgment will be an intense judgment**

**a. Who can abide the day of his coming?**

**b. Who shall stand when he appeareth?**

# **III. God Announces the Intentions of His Justice**

## **(3:2-5)**

**A. He declared that believers will be judged (vv 2-4)**

**2. Our judgment will be a purifying judgment**

**1 Corinthians 3:12-15**

**12 Now if any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble;**

**13 Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is.**

**14 If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward.**

**15 If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire.**

# **III. God Announces the Intentions of His Justice**

## **(3:2-5)**

**A. He declared that believers will be judged (vv 2-4)**

**3. Our judgment will be a purposeful judgment**

**a. To make us acceptable**

**b. To make our service acceptable**

**1 Corinthians 5:7**

**Purge out therefore the old leaven, that ye may be a new lump, as ye are unleavened. For even Christ our passover is sacrificed for us:**

# **III. God Announces the Intentions of His Justice (3:2-5)**

**B. He declared that the unbelieving will be judged (v 5)**

- 1. His judgment against unbelief will be swift**
- 2. His judgment of unbelief will include God's house**
- 3. His judgment against unbelief will be for a reason  
“...and fear not me, saith the LORD of hosts.”**

# **IV. God Reminds Us of the His Grace and Longsuffering (3:6)**

**A. His grace comes out of His unchanging character**

**B. His grace came at a price**

**C. His grace will cover our deserved justice**

*Do We Have  
A "Fair" View  
Of God?*