

“How Quickly We Forget”
“I Have Always Loved You” — Part 1
Malachi 1:1-5

Malachi: The Prophet and his burden.

An oracle: The word of the Lord to Israel through Malachi.

Malachi 1:1

Malachi addresses sin:

You have doubted God's love.
You have dishonored God's name.
You have disrespected God's covenant.
You have questioned God's justice.
You have robbed God's house.
You have despised God's service.

The statement of God's love

"I have loved you," says the Lord.

Malachi 1:2a

Doubting God's love

"But you ask, 'How have you loved us?'"

Malachi 1:2b

Yet I hold this against you: You have forsaken your first love. Remember the height from which you have fallen! Repent and do the things you did at first. If you do not repent, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place.

Revelation 2:4-5

The Shema

Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength.

Deuteronomy 6:4-5

***Lack of love for God is
the source of all other sin!***

Evidence of God's love

I chose you!

"Was not Esau Jacob's brother?" the Lord says. "Yet I have loved Jacob, but Esau I have hated, and I have turned his mountains into a wasteland and left his inheritance to the desert jackals."

Malachi 1:2c-3

I preserved you!

Edom may say, "Though we have been crushed, we will rebuild the ruins." But this is what the Lord Almighty says: "They may build, but I will demolish. They will be called the Wicked Land, a people always under the wrath of the Lord." Malachi 1:4

The world will know my love through you.

You will *see* it with your own eyes and say, "Great is the Lord—even beyond the borders of Israel!"

Malachi 1:5

Taking Malachi's message to heart:

There is much evidence for the love of God.

But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy....

Titus 3:4-5

We should praise God that His love is universal.

"Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? And how can they preach unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!" Romans 10:13-15

We need to remind ourselves that the trials we experience are opportunities to glorify God.

Now I want you to know, brothers, that what has happened to me has really served to advance the gospel. Because of my chains, most of the brothers in the Lord have been encouraged to speak the word of God more courageously and fearlessly. For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain.

Philippians 1:12, 14, 21

Every difficulty is an opportunity to

***demonstrate what God can do for those
who put their trust in Him.***

"Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done."

Luke 22:42

"How Quickly We Forget" is first in a series titled, "I Have Always Loved You,"
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