

“A Call to Examine Your Life”
“God’s Unchanging Love” Part 5
Malachi 3:13-4:6

(Week 1)
How Quickly We Forget

"I have loved you," says the Lord.
Malachi 1:2

***“Lack of love for God is
the source of all other sin.”***

(Week 2)
A Call to Honor God

If I am a father, where is the honor due me?
Malachi 1:6

***“To the degree we recognize the greatness of God,
the impeccable character of God, and the
flawless attributes of God, to that degree
We will recognize our own inadequacies,
deceptiveness, and diluted worship.”***

(Week 3)
A Call to Love God Completely

So guard yourself in your spirit, and do not break faith with the wife of your youth.
Malachi 2:15

***“To the degree that we love God
with our heart, soul, mind and strength,
to that degree our life and walk will honor God.
This love will give us confidence
in our relationship with God, and we will be
love, salt, and light to those around us.”***

(Week 4)
A Call to Trust God Completely

“Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this," says the Lord Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it.”
Malachi 3:10

***Taking God at His Word by walking in obedience
and giving faithfully is evidence of***

a heart that trusts God completely.

(Week 5)

1. The complainers keep on complaining.

"You have said harsh things against me," says the Lord. "Yet you ask, 'What have we said against you?'" "You have said, 'It is futile to serve God. What did we gain by carrying out his requirements and going about like mourners before the Lord Almighty? But now we call the arrogant blessed. Certainly the evildoers prosper, and even those who challenge God escape.'" Malachi 3:13-15

Application: God would have blessed them if they had yielded themselves to Him, but they preferred to have it their own way and then complain about what happened. Their complaining against God to each other, God saw as gossiping against Himself. It is a sad thing when a servant of God is merely doing a job for what they get out of it.

Serve the Lord with gladness—For the Lord is good; His lovingkindness is everlasting and His faithfulness to all generations. Psalm 100:2 & 5 (NASB)

2. The believers remain actively faithful.

Then those who feared the Lord talked with each other, and the Lord listened and heard. A scroll of remembrance was written in his presence concerning those who feared the Lord and honored his name. "They will be mine," says the Lord Almighty, "in the day when I make up my treasured possession. I will spare them, just as in compassion a man spares his son who serves him. And you will again see the distinction between the righteous and the wicked, between those who serve God and those who do not." Malachi 3:16-18

Application: The day will come when God will reveal and reward those who are His "treasured possession."

Now it is required that those who have been given a trust must prove faithful. I care very little if I am judged by you or by any human court; indeed, I do not even judge myself. My conscience is clear, but that does not make me innocent. It is the Lord who judges me. Therefore judge nothing before the appointed time; wait till the Lord comes. He will bring to light what is hidden in darkness and will expose the motives of men's hearts. At that time each will receive his praise from God. 1 Corinthians 4:2-5

3. The evildoers will receive their punishment.

"Surely the day is coming; it will burn like a furnace. All the arrogant and every evildoer will be stubble, and that day that is coming will set them on fire," says the Lord

Almighty. "Not a root or a branch will be left to them. But for you who revere my name, the sun of righteousness will rise with healing in its wings. And you will go out and leap like calves released from the stall. Then you will trample down the wicked; they will be ashes under the soles of your feet on the day when I do these things," says the Lord Almighty.

Malachi 4:1-3

Application: God will punish evildoers!

"Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. For I was hungry and you gave me nothing to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, I was a stranger and you did not invite me in, I needed clothes and you did not clothe me, I was sick and in prison and you did not look after me.'—Then they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life."

Matthew 25:41-46

4. The prophets will continue to witness.

"Remember the law of my servant Moses, the decrees and laws I gave him at Horeb for all Israel. See, I will send you the prophet Elijah before that great and dreadful day of the Lord comes. He will turn the hearts of the fathers to their children, and the hearts of the children to their fathers; or else I will come and strike the land with a curse." Malachi 4:4-6

Application: We should be expecting our Lord's return, and while waiting, we too should be witnessing. No one can afford to argue with God. He will always have the last word. What will His word be for you, salvation or judgment?

For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 6:23 (NASB)

"A Call to Examine Your Life" is fifth in a series titled, "God's Unchanging Love," November 16, 2014. All verses taken from the New International version unless noted.