

Lessons From Malachi For Today

Introduction

- Do we ever doubt God's love for us?
- When we assemble to worship God, do we ever feel bored, disinterested, fatigued or even disgusted with serving God?
- Do we worship halfheartedly and fail to give God our best spiritual sacrifices?
- Do we show the proper reverence for God in our worship and each day?

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Introduction

- The people of Judah in Malachi's day were thinking sinfully about the character and the works of God
- Therefore, their worship was irreverent, halfhearted and lacked commitment to and love for God
- Their daily moral conduct was like the world not God

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Brief Background To Malachi

- After Babylonian captivity, permitted by Persian kings, three groups of Jews come to Jerusalem
- 536-516 BC Group 1 led by Zerubbabel rebuilt the Temple after being discouraged for many years
- 458 BC Group 2 led by Ezra the priest began turning the people back to the Law of Moses

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Brief Background To Malachi

- 445 BC Group 3 led by Nehemiah rebuilt the city wall and aided Ezra in restoring the Law
- Malachi the prophet joined them rebuking the people's corrupt thinking, worship and immorality

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Brief Background To Malachi

- His name means "My Messenger"
- Date is unknown but probably between 445-430 BC
- He was the last Old Testament prophet
- After Malachi, God is silent for over 400 years until He sends John the Baptist to prepare the way for Jesus

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They Doubted God's Love

Mal 1:1 The oracle of the word of the LORD to Israel through Malachi.

Mal 1:2 "I have loved you," says the LORD. But you say, "How have You loved us?" "Was not Esau Jacob's brother?" declares the LORD. "Yet I have loved Jacob;

Mal 1:3 but I have hated Esau, and I have made his mountains a desolation and *appointed* his inheritance for the jackals of the wilderness." 7

They Doubted God's Love

Mal 1:4 Though Edom says, "We have been beaten down, but we will return and build up the ruins"; thus says the LORD of hosts, "They may build, but I will tear down; and *men* will call them the wicked territory, and the people toward whom the LORD is indignant forever."

Mal 1:5 Your eyes will see this and you will say, "The LORD be magnified beyond the border of Israel!" 8

We Must Never Doubt God's Love For Us

Joh 3:16 "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.

Mar 16:16 "He who has believed and has been baptized shall be saved; but he who has disbelieved shall be condemned." 9

We Must Never Doubt God's Love For Us

Act 2:38 Peter *said* to them, "Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Rom 8:28 And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to *His* purpose. 10

We Must Never Doubt God's Love For Us

Rom 8:35 Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

Rom 8:36 Just as it is written, "FOR YOUR SAKE WE ARE BEING PUT TO DEATH ALL DAY LONG; WE WERE CONSIDERED AS SHEEP TO BE SLAUGHTERED." 11

We Must Never Doubt God's Love For Us

Rom 8:37 But in all these things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us.

Rom 8:38 For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, 12

We Must Never Doubt God's Love For Us

Rom 8:39 nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

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Dishonored God's Name By Halfheartedly Offering Blemished Sacrifices

Mal 1:6 " 'A son honors *his* father, and a servant his master. Then if I am a father, where is My honor? And if I am a master, where is My respect?' says the LORD of hosts to you, O priests who despise My name. But you say, 'How have we despised Your name?'

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Dishonored God's Name By Halfheartedly Offering Blemished Sacrifices

Mal 1:7 "*You* are presenting defiled food upon My altar. But you say, 'How have we defiled You?' In that you say, 'The table of the LORD is to be despised.'

Mal 1:8 "But when you present the blind for sacrifice, is it not evil? And when you present the lame and sick, is it not evil? Why not offer it to your governor? Would he be pleased with you? Or would he receive you kindly?" says the LORD of hosts.

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Dishonored God's Name By Halfheartedly Offering Blemished Sacrifices

Mal 1:9 "But now will you not entreat God's favor, that He may be gracious to us? With such an offering on your part, will He receive any of you kindly?" says the LORD of hosts.

Mal 1:10 "Oh that there were one among you who would shut the gates, that you might not uselessly kindle *fire on* My altar! I am not pleased with you," says the LORD of hosts, "nor will I accept an offering from you.

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Dishonored God's Name By Halfheartedly Offering Blemished Sacrifices

Mal 1:11 "For from the rising of the sun even to its setting, My name *will be* great among the nations, and in every place incense is going to be offered to My name, and a grain offering *that is* pure; for My name *will be* great among the nations," says the LORD of hosts.

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Dishonored God's Name By Halfheartedly Offering Blemished Sacrifices

Mal 1:12 "But you are profaning it, in that you say, 'The table of the Lord is defiled, and as for its fruit, its food is to be despised.'

Mal 1:13 "You also say, 'My, how tiresome it is!' And you disdainfully sniff at it," says the LORD of hosts, "and you bring what was taken by robbery and *what is* lame or sick; so you bring the offering! Should I receive that from your hand?" says the LORD.

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Dishonored God's Name By Halfheartedly Offering Blemished Sacrifices

Mal 1:14 "But cursed be the swindler who has a male in his flock and vows it, but sacrifices a blemished animal to the Lord, for I am a great King," says the LORD of hosts, "and My name is feared among the nations."

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They Would Not Go Unpunished

Mal 2:1 "And now this commandment is for you, O priests.

Mal 2:2 "If you do not listen, and if you do not take it to heart to give honor to My name," says the LORD of hosts, "then I will send the curse upon you and I will curse your blessings; and indeed, I have cursed them *already*, because you are not taking *it* to heart.

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They Would Not Go Unpunished

Mal 2:3 "Behold, I am going to rebuke your offspring, and I will spread refuse on your faces, the refuse of your feasts; and you will be taken away with it.

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Cause of Dishonoring God Was They Failed To Reverence Him

- Reverence is a heartfelt response to God's greatness displayed by loving and fearing Him above all
- Their worship should have been serious and special because God is great, perfect in every way
- God would be pleased with only those who loved and feared Him in sincerely obeying Him

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Cause of Dishonoring God Was They Failed To Reverence Him

Mal 1:2 "I have loved you," says the LORD. But you say, "How have You loved us?" "Was not Esau Jacob's brother?" declares the LORD. "Yet I have loved Jacob;

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Cause of Dishonoring God Was They Failed To Reverence Him

Mal 1:6 " 'A son honors *his* father, and a servant his master. Then if I am a father, where is My honor? And if I am a master, where is My respect?' says the LORD of hosts to you, O priests who despise My name. But you say, 'How have we despised Your name?'

Rom 3:18 "THERE IS NO FEAR OF GOD BEFORE THEIR EYES."

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Cause of Dishonoring God Was They Failed To Reverence Him

Psa 36:1 **For the choir director. A Psalm of David the servant of the LORD.**

Transgression speaks to the ungodly within his heart; There is no fear of God before his eyes.

Psa 36:2 For it flatters him in his *own* eyes Concerning the discovery of his iniquity *and* the hatred *of it*.

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Cause of Dishonoring God Was They Failed To Reverence Him

Psa 36:3 The words of his mouth are wickedness and deceit; He has ceased to be wise *and* to do good.

Psa 36:4 He plans wickedness upon his bed; He sets himself on a path that is not good; He does not despise evil.

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God Is Pleased Only With Those Who Reverently Worship and Obey Him

Mal 3:16 Then those who feared the LORD spoke to one another, and the LORD gave attention and heard *it*, and a book of remembrance was written before Him for those who fear the LORD and who esteem His name.

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God Is Pleased Only With Those Who Reverently Worship and Obey Him

Mal 3:17 "They will be Mine," says the LORD of hosts, "on the day that I prepare *My* own possession, and I will spare them as a man spares his own son who serves him."

Mal 4:2 "But for you who fear My name, the sun of righteousness will rise with healing in its wings; and you will go forth and skip about like calves from the stall.

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God Is Pleased Only With Those Who Reverently Worship and Obey Him

Deu 10:12 "Now, Israel, what does the LORD your God require from you, but to fear the LORD your God, to walk in all His ways and love Him, and to serve the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul,

Deu 10:13 *and* to keep the LORD'S commandments and His statutes which I am commanding you today for your good?

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Lessons From Malachi For Today

1. We must never doubt God's love for us
2. We must reverently worship and obey God offering our best spiritual sacrifices

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We Must Reverently Worship and Obey God
Offering Our Best Spiritual Sacrifices

Heb 12:28 Therefore, since we receive a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us show gratitude, by which we may offer to God an acceptable service with reverence and awe;

Heb 12:29 for our God is a consuming fire.

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We Must Reverently Worship and Obey God
Offering Our Best Spiritual Sacrifices

Rev 14:7 and he said with a loud voice, "Fear God, and give Him glory, because the hour of His judgment has come; worship Him who made the heaven and the earth and sea and springs of waters."

1Jn 5:3 For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments; and His commandments are not burdensome.

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We Must Reverently Worship and Obey God
Offering Our Best Spiritual Sacrifices

Rev 5:6 And I saw between the throne (with the four living creatures) and the elders a Lamb standing, as if slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God, sent out into all the earth.

Rev 5:7 And He came and took the book out of the right hand of Him who sat on the throne.

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We Must Reverently Worship and Obey God
Offering Our Best Spiritual Sacrifices

Rev 5:8 When He had taken the book, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each one holding a harp and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints.

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We Must Reverently Worship and Obey God
Offering Our Best Spiritual Sacrifices

Rev 5:9 And they *sang a new song, saying, "Worthy are You to take the book and to break its seals; for You were slain, and purchased for God with Your blood *men* from every tribe and tongue and people and nation.

Rev 5:10 "You have made them *to be* a kingdom and priests to our God; and they will reign upon the earth."

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We Must Reverently Worship and Obey God
Offering Our Best Spiritual Sacrifices

Rev 5:11 Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels around the throne and the living creatures and the elders; and the number of them was myriads of myriads, and thousands of thousands,

Rev 5:12 saying with a loud voice, "Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power and riches and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing."

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We Must Reverently Worship and Obey God
Offering Our Best Spiritual Sacrifices

Rev 5:13 And every created thing which is in heaven and on the earth and under the earth and on the sea, and all things in them, I heard saying, "To Him who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb, *be* blessing and honor and glory and dominion forever and ever."

Rev 5:14 And the four living creatures kept saying, "Amen." And the elders fell down and worshiped.

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We Must Reverently Worship and Obey God
Offering Our Best Spiritual Sacrifices

1Pe 2:5 you also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house for a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

1Pe 2:9 But you are A CHOSEN RACE, A royal PRIESTHOOD, A HOLY NATION, A PEOPLE FOR *God's* OWN POSSESSION, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;

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We Must Reverently Worship and Obey God
Offering Our Best Spiritual Sacrifices

1Pe 2:10 for you once were NOT A PEOPLE, but now you are THE PEOPLE OF GOD; you had NOT RECEIVED MERCY, but now you have RECEIVED MERCY.

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We Must Reverently Worship and Obey God
Offering Our Best Spiritual Sacrifices

Rom 12:1 Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, *which is* your spiritual service of worship.

Rom 12:2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.

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We Must Reverently Worship and Obey God
Offering Our Best Spiritual Sacrifices

Heb 13:15 Through Him then, let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that give thanks to His name.

Heb 13:16 And do not neglect doing good and sharing, for with such sacrifices God is pleased.

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They Were Morally Impure Saying God
Would Not Judge Between Right and Wrong

Mal 2:10 "Do we not all have one father? Has not one God created us? Why do we deal treacherously each against his brother so as to profane the covenant of our fathers?"

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They Were Morally Impure Saying God Would Not Judge Between Right and Wrong

Mal 2:17 You have wearied the LORD with your words. Yet you say, "How have we wearied *Him*?" In that you say, "Everyone who does evil is good in the sight of the LORD, and He delights in them," or, "Where is the God of justice?"

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God Rejects The Worship of The Morally Impure

Amo 5:21 "I hate, I reject your festivals, Nor do I delight in your solemn assemblies.

Amo 5:22 "Even though you offer up to Me burnt offerings and your grain offerings, I will not accept *them*; And I will not *even* look at the peace offerings of your fatlings.

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God Rejects The Worship of The Morally Impure

Amo 5:23 "Take away from Me the noise of your songs; I will not even listen to the sound of your harps.

Amo 5:24 "But let justice roll down like waters And righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

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God Accepts The Worship of Those Who Are Morally Pure

Psa 24:3 Who may ascend into the hill of the LORD? And who may stand in His holy place?

Psa 24:4 He who has clean hands and a pure heart, Who has not lifted up his soul to falsehood And has not sworn deceitfully.

Psa 24:5 He shall receive a blessing from the LORD And righteousness from the God of his salvation.

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We Must Be Morally Pure For God To Accept Our Worship and Reward Us

Mat 5:23 "Therefore if you are presenting your offering at the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you,

Mat 5:24 leave your offering there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother, and then come and present your offering.

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We Must Be Morally Pure For God To Accept Our Worship and Reward Us

1Pe 3:7 You husbands in the same way, live with *your wives* in an understanding way, as with someone weaker, since she is a woman; and show her honor as a fellow heir of the grace of life, so that your prayers will not be hindered.

1Pe 3:8 To sum up, all of you be harmonious, sympathetic, brotherly, kindhearted, and humble in spirit;

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We Must Be Morally Pure For God To Accept Our Worship and Reward Us

1Pe 3:12 "FOR THE EYES OF THE LORD ARE TOWARD THE RIGHTEOUS, AND HIS EARS ATTEND TO THEIR PRAYER, BUT THE FACE OF THE LORD IS AGAINST THOSE WHO DO EVIL."

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We Must Be Morally Pure For God To Accept Our Worship and Reward Us

1Ti 2:8 Therefore I want the men in every place to pray, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and dissension.

2Co 7:1 Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all defilement of flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.

1Jn 1:9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

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The Gospel Message Will Separate The Righteous and Unrighteous

Mal 3:1 "Behold, I am going to send My messenger, and he will clear the way before Me. And the Lord, whom you seek, will suddenly come to His temple; and the messenger of the covenant, in whom you delight, behold, He is coming," says the LORD of hosts.

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The Gospel Message Will Separate The Righteous and Unrighteous

Mal 3:2 "But who can endure the day of His coming? And who can stand when He appears? For He is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap.

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The Gospel Message Will Separate The Righteous and Unrighteous

Mal 3:5 "Then I will draw near to you for judgment; and I will be a swift witness against the sorcerers and against the adulterers and against those who swear falsely, and against those who oppress the wage earner in his wages, the widow and the orphan, and those who turn aside the alien and do not fear Me," says the LORD of hosts.

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The Gospel Message Will Separate The Righteous and Unrighteous

Mal 3:6 "For I, the LORD, do not change; therefore you, O sons of Jacob, are not consumed.

Mal 4:2 "But for you who fear My name, the sun of righteousness will rise with healing in its wings; and you will go forth and skip about like calves from the stall.

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The Gospel Message Will Separate The Righteous and Unrighteous

Mat 3:1 Now in those days John the Baptist
*came, preaching in the wilderness of
Judea, saying,

Mat 3:2 "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven
is at hand."

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The Gospel Message Will Separate The Righteous and Unrighteous

Mat 3:3 For this is the one referred to by
Isaiah the prophet when he said, "THE
VOICE OF ONE CRYING IN THE
WILDERNESS, 'MAKE READY THE WAY
OF THE LORD, MAKE HIS PATHS
STRAIGHT!'"

Mat 26:28 for this is My blood of the
covenant, which is poured out for many for
forgiveness of sins.

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The Gospel Message Will Separate The Righteous and Unrighteous

Act 2:36 "Therefore let all the house of
Israel know for certain that God has made
Him both Lord and Christ--this Jesus whom
you crucified."

Act 2:37 Now when they heard *this*, they
were pierced to the heart, and said to Peter
and the rest of the apostles, "Brethren, what
shall we do?"

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The Gospel Message Will Separate The Righteous and Unrighteous

Act 2:38 Peter *said* to them, "Repent, and
each of you be baptized in the name of
Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins;
and you will receive the gift of the Holy
Spirit.

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The Gospel Message Will Separate The Righteous and Unrighteous

Rom 6:22 But now having been freed from
sin and enslaved to God, you derive your
benefit, resulting in sanctification, and the
outcome, eternal life.

Rom 6:23 For the wages of sin is death, but
the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ
Jesus our Lord.

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Lessons From Malachi For Today

1. We must never doubt God's love for us
2. We must reverently worship and obey
God offering our best spiritual sacrifices
3. We must be morally pure for God to
accept our worship and reward us

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Dishonored God's Marriage Covenant By
Treacherosly Divorcing Their Lawful Mates

Mal 2:11 "Judah has dealt treacherously,
and an abomination has been committed in
Israel and in Jerusalem; for Judah has
profaned the sanctuary of the LORD which
He loves and has married the daughter of a
foreign god.

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Dishonored God's Marriage Covenant By
Treacherosly Divorcing Their Lawful Mates

Deu 7:3 "Furthermore, you shall not
intermarry with them; you shall not give your
daughters to their sons, nor shall you take
their daughters for your sons.

Deu 7:4 "For they will turn your sons away
from following Me to serve other gods; then
the anger of the LORD will be kindled
against you and He will quickly destroy you.

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Dishonored God's Marriage Covenant By
Treacherosly Divorcing Their Lawful Mates

Mal 2:12 "As for the man who does this,
may the LORD cut off from the tents of
Jacob *everyone* who awakes and answers,
or who presents an offering to the LORD of
hosts.

Mal 2:13 "This is another thing you do: you
cover the altar of the LORD with tears, with
weeping and with groaning, because He no
longer regards the offering or accepts *it with*
favor from your hand.

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Dishonored God's Marriage Covenant By
Treacherosly Divorcing Their Lawful Mates

Mal 2:14 "Yet you say, 'For what reason?'
Because the LORD has been a witness
between you and the wife of your youth,
against whom you have dealt treacherously,
though she is your companion and your wife
by covenant.

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Dishonored God's Marriage Covenant By
Treacherosly Divorcing Their Lawful Mates

Mal 2:15 "But not one has done so who has
a remnant of the Spirit. And what did *that*
one *do* while he was seeking a godly
offspring? Take heed then to your spirit, and
let no one deal treacherously against the
wife of your youth.

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Dishonored God's Marriage Covenant By
Treacherosly Divorcing Their Lawful Mates

Mal 2:16 "For I hate divorce," says the
LORD, the God of Israel, "and him who
covers his garment with wrong," says the
LORD of hosts. "So take heed to your spirit,
that you do not deal treacherously."

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Dishonored God's Marriage Covenant By Treacherously Divorcing Their Lawful Mates

Pro 2:16 To deliver you from the strange woman, From the adulteress who flatters with her words;

Pro 2:17 That leaves the companion of her youth And forgets the covenant of her God;

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We Must Honor God's Marriage Covenant Until Death

Mat 19:3 *Some* Pharisees came to Jesus, testing Him and asking, "Is it lawful *for a man* to divorce his wife for any reason at all?"

Mat 19:4 And He answered and said, "Have you not read that He who created *them* from the beginning MADE THEM MALE AND FEMALE,

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We Must Honor God's Marriage Covenant Until Death

Mat 19:5 and said, 'FOR THIS REASON A MAN SHALL LEAVE HIS FATHER AND MOTHER AND BE JOINED TO HIS WIFE, AND THE TWO SHALL BECOME ONE FLESH'?

Mat 19:6 "So they are no longer two, but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let no man separate."

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We Must Honor God's Marriage Covenant Until Death

Mat 19:7 They *said to Him, "Why then did Moses command to GIVE HER A CERTIFICATE OF DIVORCE AND SEND *her* AWAY?"

Mat 19:8 He *said to them, "Because of your hardness of heart Moses permitted you to divorce your wives; but from the beginning it has not been this way.

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We Must Honor God's Marriage Covenant Until Death

Mat 19:9 "And I say to you, whoever divorces his wife, except for immorality, and marries another woman commits adultery."

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We Must Honor God's Marriage Covenant Until Death

Mat 5:32 but I say to you that everyone who divorces his wife, except for *the* reason of unchastity, makes her commit adultery; and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery.

Luk 16:18 "Everyone who divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery, and he who marries one who is divorced from a husband commits adultery.

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We Must Honor God's Marriage Covenant Until Death

Eph 5:22 Wives, *be subject* to your own husbands, as to the Lord.

Eph 5:23 For the husband is the head of the wife, as Christ also is the head of the church, He Himself *being* the Savior of the body.

Eph 5:24 But as the church is subject to Christ, so also the wives *ought to be* to their husbands in everything.

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We Must Honor God's Marriage Covenant Until Death

Eph 5:25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her,

Eph 5:26 so that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word,

Eph 5:27 that He might present to Himself the church in all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that she would be holy and blameless.

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They Had Robbed God By Not Offering Their Tithes

Mal 3:8 "Will a man rob God? Yet you are robbing Me! But you say, 'How have we robbed You?' In tithes and offerings.

Mal 3:9 "You are cursed with a curse, for you are robbing Me, the whole nation *of you!*

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They Had Robbed God By Not Offering Their Tithes

Mal 3:10 "Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, so that there may be food in My house, and test Me now in this," says the LORD of hosts, "if I will not open for you the windows of heaven and pour out for you a blessing until it overflows.

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They Had Robbed God By Not Offering Their Tithes

Mal 3:11 "Then I will rebuke the devourer for you, so that it will not destroy the fruits of the ground; nor will your vine in the field cast *its grapes,*" says the LORD of hosts.

Mal 3:12 "All the nations will call you blessed, for you shall be a delightful land," says the LORD of hosts.

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We Must Cheerfully and Sacrificially Give To The Lord

2Co 8:3 For I testify that according to their ability, and beyond their ability, *they gave* of their own accord,

2Co 8:4 begging us with much urging for the favor of participation in the support of the saints,

2Co 8:5 and *this*, not as we had expected, but they first gave themselves to the Lord and to us by the will of God.

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We Must Cheerfully and Sacrificially Give To The Lord

2Co 8:9 For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sake He became poor, so that you through His poverty might become rich.

2Co 9:6 Now this I say, he who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully.

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We Must Cheerfully and Sacrificially Give To The Lord

2Co 9:7 Each one *must do* just as he has purposed in his heart, not grudgingly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

2Co 9:8 And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that always having all sufficiency in everything, you may have an abundance for every good deed;

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They Said Serving God Was Vain

Mal 3:13 "Your words have been arrogant against Me," says the LORD. "Yet you say, 'What have we spoken against You?'

Mal 3:14 "You have said, 'It is vain to serve God; and what profit is it that we have kept His charge, and that we have walked in mourning before the LORD of hosts?'

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They Said Serving God Was Vain

Mal 3:15 'So now we call the arrogant blessed; not only are the doers of wickedness built up but they also test God and escape.'

82

God Will Reward Those Who Fear Him and Punish The Wicked

Mal 3:16 Then those who feared the LORD spoke to one another, and the LORD gave attention and heard *it*, and a book of remembrance was written before Him for those who fear the LORD and who esteem His name.

Mal 3:17 "They will be Mine," says the LORD of hosts, "on the day that I prepare My own possession, and I will spare them as a man spares his own son who serves him."⁸³

God Will Reward Those Who Fear Him and Punish The Wicked

Mal 3:18 So you will again distinguish between the righteous and the wicked, between one who serves God and one who does not serve Him.

Mal 4:1 "For behold, the day is coming, burning like a furnace; and all the arrogant and every evildoer will be chaff; and the day that is coming will set them ablaze," says the LORD of hosts, "so that it will leave them neither root nor branch."⁸⁴

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God Will Reward Those Who Fear Him and Punish The Wicked

Mal 4:2 "But for you who fear My name, the sun of righteousness will rise with healing in its wings; and you will go forth and skip about like calves from the stall.

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We Must Labor In The Lord Knowing It Is Not In Vain

1Co 15:50 Now I say this, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable.

1Co 15:51 Behold, I tell you a mystery; we will not all sleep, but we will all be changed,

1Co 15:52 in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet; for the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed.

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We Must Labor In The Lord Knowing It Is Not In Vain

1Co 15:53 For this perishable must put on the imperishable, and this mortal must put on immortality.

1Co 15:54 But when this perishable will have put on the imperishable, and this mortal will have put on immortality, then will come about the saying that is written, "DEATH IS SWALLOWED UP in victory.

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We Must Labor In The Lord Knowing It Is Not In Vain

1Co 15:58 Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your toil is not *in vain* in the Lord.

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Lessons From Malachi For Today

1. We must never doubt God's love for us
2. We must reverently worship and obey God offering our best spiritual sacrifices
3. We must be morally pure for God to accept our worship and reward us
4. We must honor God's marriage covenant until death

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Lessons From Malachi For Today

5. We must cheerfully and sacrificially give to the Lord
6. We must labor in the Lord knowing it is not in vain

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