

# True Worship

## Malachi 1

### January 3, 2020

God's people had become weary in worship, true worship? They questioned God's love and sought to live their own way.

What about you and me? Do we do this?

Malachi spoke to the exiles some 100 years after their initial return:

- The priesthood was defiled.
- Marriage was corrupt.
- The tithe that should have gone to the Levites was kept from them.

"An unexcited Christian is simply a Christian who has forgotten who God is." ~ **Warren Wiersbe**

Our word enthusiasm comes from two Greek words which mean en theos or in God.

The burden of the Word of the LORD to Israel by Malachi.

<sup>2</sup> "I have loved you," says the LORD. "Yet you say, 'In what way have You loved us?' Was not Esau Jacob's brother?" Says the LORD. "Yet Jacob I have loved; <sup>3</sup> But Esau I have hated, And laid waste his mountains and his heritage for the jackals of the wilderness." <sup>4</sup> Even though Edom has said, "We have been impoverished, But we will return and build the desolate places,"

Thus says the LORD of hosts: "They may build, but I will throw down; They shall be called the Territory of Wickedness, And the people against whom the LORD will have indignation forever. <sup>5</sup> Your eyes shall see, And you shall say, 'The LORD is magnified beyond the border of Israel.'"

**Malachi 1:2-5**

**The people had forgotten and/or ignored that they were chosen by God.**

Israel (God's people) did this first.

But haven't you and I done it?

Want to know if you are of the elect? Have you believed? Have you trusted Jesus?

Someone said to Dr. Arno C. Gaebelin, the gifted Hebrew Christian leader of a generation ago, "I have a serious problem with Malachi 1:3, where God says, 'Esau I have hated.'" Dr. Gaebelin replied, "I have a greater problem with Malachi 1:2 where God says, 'Jacob I have loved.'"

We have done NOTHING to deserve God's love. He could have left us just the way we are, broken, lost and headed for hell... but God.

God loved and spared the Jews time and time again.

Covenant, Freedom from bondage, Esther, Nehemiah among others.

God loves you and me and has spared us His wrath thru Jesus. We get off track when we fail to:

- **Remember**
- **Worship**
- **Take our worship to action**

<sup>6</sup> "A son honors *his* father, And a servant *his* master.  
If then I am the Father, Where *is* My honor?  
And if I *am* a Master, Where *is* My reverence?  
Says the LORD of hosts To you priests who despise My name.  
Yet you say, 'In what way have we despised Your name?'"

<sup>7</sup> "You offer defiled food on My altar,  
But say, 'In what way have we defiled You?'"

By saying, 'The table of the LORD is contemptible.'

<sup>8</sup> And when you offer the blind as a sacrifice, *Is it not evil?*

And when you offer the lame and sick, *Is it not evil?*

Offer it then to your governor!

Would he be pleased with you? Would he accept favorably?"

Says the LORD of hosts.

<sup>9</sup> "But now entreat God's favor, That He may be gracious to us.

*While this is being done by your hands,*

*Will He accept you favorably?"*

Says the LORD of hosts. **Malachi 1:6-9**

**In spite of God, His people wandered, so do we.**

We dishonor God's name just like they did.

Give Him half- hearted worship (or none at all).

They were giving God the leftovers. They wouldn't give it to their governor, but they would give it to God?

Do we give God our leftovers?

- Leftover time?
- Leftover worship?
- Leftover money?
- Leftover service?
- Just our overall leftovers?

<sup>10</sup> "Who is there even among you who would shut the doors so that you would not kindle fire on My altar in vain? I have no pleasure in you," Says the LORD of hosts, "Nor will I accept an offering from your hands. <sup>11</sup> For from the rising of the sun, even to its going down, My name shall be great among the Gentiles; In every place incense shall be offered to My name, And a pure offering; For My name shall be great among the nations," Says the LORD of hosts.

<sup>12</sup> "But you profane it, In that you say, 'The table of the LORD is defiled; And its fruit, its food, is contemptible.' <sup>13</sup> You also say, 'Oh, what a weariness!' And you sneer at it," Says the LORD of hosts. "And you bring the stolen, the lame, and the sick; Thus you bring an offering! Should I accept this from your hand?" Says the LORD. <sup>14</sup> "But cursed be the deceiver Who has in his flock a male, And takes a vow, But sacrifices to the Lord what is blemished— For I am a great King," Says the LORD of hosts, "And My name is to be feared among the nations. **Malachi 1:10-14**

**God desires true worship.**

Verse 10 says it would have been better for doors of the altar to have been shut than sacrifices made.

*'These people draw near to Me with their mouth, and honor Me with their lips, But their heart is far from Me. And in vain they worship Me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.'* **Matthew 15:8-9**

*Nevertheless I have this against you, that you have left your first love. <sup>5</sup> Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent and do the first works, or else I will come to you quickly and remove your lampstand from its place—unless you repent.*

**Revelation 2:4-5**

*He has shown you, O man, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God?* **Micah 6:8**

What does God require of me?

**Prayer Focus:**

- **Realize I am chosen by God**
- **I am prone to wander**
- **God desires true worship**