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McInteer Sermon Outlines - Malachi

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MALACHI INTRODUCTION

Unger

1. Burden - an oracle or weighty message fraught with warning of judgment.
2. Word of the Lord - assuring consequent inspiration and divine authority.
3. Israel - embrace Judah's two tribes and Israel's ten tribes.

Spurgeon

4. Unbelievable questions as man seeks to have the last work with God.
5. Depressed, full of sullen unbelief.

DeHoff

6. Introduce objections to the truth and then replying to them.
7. Called the little Old Testament.
8. 100 years after return from Babylon.
9. People became religiously cold and morally lax.
10. Malachi sought to reform--used encouragement and rebuke at same time.
11. Old Testament closes with "curse". New Testament begins with grace.

12. Contemporary of Nehemiah and Ezra.
13. Sought to restore regular service and overcome mixed marriages.
14. Leading sins: sacrilege, marriage, laws violated, falsehood and oppression, refused to tithe, disregard of God.



HOTELS · RESORTS · SUITES

1. Burden 1000 inspiration
400 BC 100 after Babylon
forgot what what
Indifferent to morality
2. Md. only here - Messenger
3. Word - by the hand of
Great responsibility
4. Burden - impatient, repeated
on a scale
5. Gave what's intrusted &
to heart of heavens
6. Talk Back Book
7. Lewis quote

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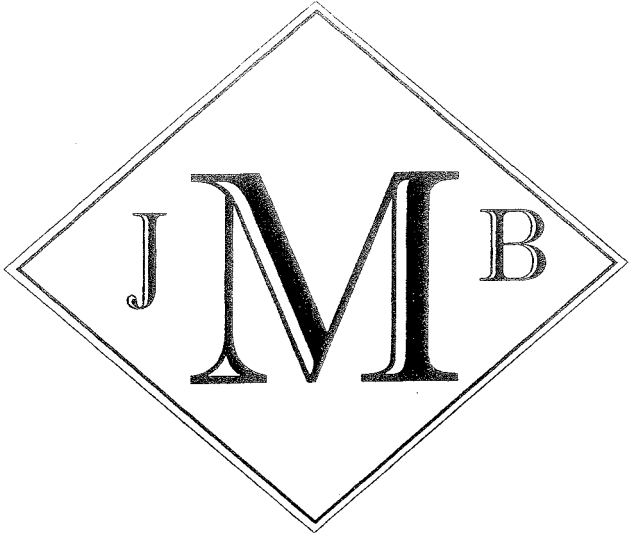


1. Ingratitude - "tell the way we eat"
2. Gt God's power & providence
3. Change Script. to suit self.
4. Insensitive to God & Sin
5. 8x Rebuttal
Lord of Host 20+ in 55V.

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In Test

1. Number is Oracle - heavy
Must say Oracle only after study
2. Not opinion but Yes is
word of God - we know we
study the Bible
3. Oracle
Zechariah 7:1
12:1



AN ORACLE TO REPEAT

Mal. 1:1

- I. What's the strangest introduction to a speech or a letter you ever heard?
 - A. Olmstead spoke at our high school graduation: "You won't remember what I said, but you will always remember my subject "Bird Nests."
 1. I still do.
 2. I used approach and I am still teased bout it.
 - B. Or "I'm sure you don't want to hear this--but I want to speak on _____."

II. Malachi has an unusual opening.

Mal. 1:1 "The burden of the word of the Lord to Israel by Malachi."

- A. Set the stage.
 1. Last of 1,000 years of inspired writings.
 2. 400 years BC.
 3. 100 years after returning from Babylon.
 4. These features:
 - a) Returned with great enthusiasm.
 - b) Ardor is cooling.
 - c) Forgotten who they are and what they should be.
 - d) Flagrant sins against God.
 - e) Indifferent to morality's high claim.
 - f) Arguing with God.

- 5. Sound familiar?
- 6. Needed a revival.

Neh. 10:28-39

B. Malachi introduced a burden.

1. Who is Malachi?
 - a) Only here in Bible.
 - b) Know nothing of him.
 - c) Name means messenger of God.
 - d) Calls attention thus to the message, not the messenger.
 - e) Was he a man reality or is it "messenger?"
2. What did he bring? Word of the Lord.
 - a) He did not invent it.
 - b) He brought what was entrusted to him.
 - c) By the hand of margin he's the instrument of God.

1 Cor. 9:17

Titus 1:3

2 Cor. 5:19

Gal. 2:7

- d) Can a higher responsibility come to a man?
3. Why a "burden?"
 - a) Not against but to Israel.
 - b) Against enemy; to a friend (Pusey).
 - c) Burden implies:
 - 1) Heavy

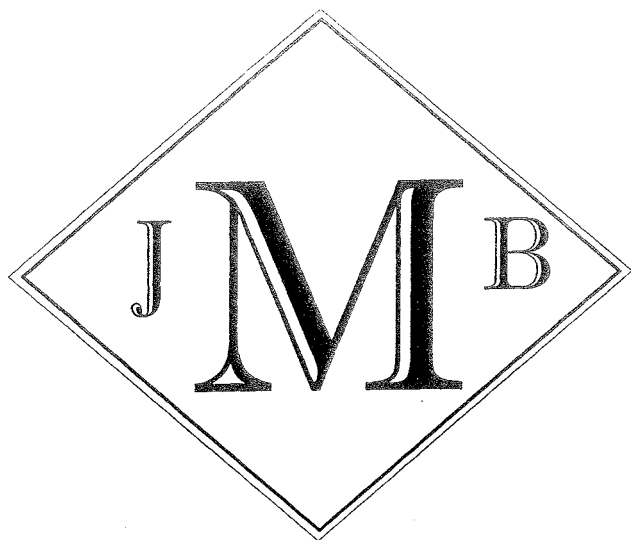
- 2) Great importance
 - 3) To be repeated as the burden of a song.
 - 4) Idea of a burden imposed by a master, or deity on his subjects.
- d) Some translate "oracle" as oracle used 60 times in Old Testament.
4. What's the significance of all this?
- a) Prophet delivered what was entrusted to him.
 - b) He was not asked to invent, alter, shorten or lengthen, or change.
 - c) He was not asked whether he agreed or whether he could be successful.
 - d) He was not speaking just to hear sound of his own voice, rather he hopes to put message on the conscience of his hearer.
 - e) Any word of God a burden of responsibility to the bearer thus a test of fidelity and courage (P.C.).

Jer. 15:10-21

Phil. 3:18

Luke 19:41-44

- f) There will be hearers to whom it was a burden and reproach-- thus Malachi becomes the "Talk Back" Book as like radio men argue with God.
 - g) These will sink unless they repent and change.
 - h) Jack Lewis wrote "the oracle will never be out of date so long as people feel nothing too good for their homes and just anything will do for God."
- C. The need of our day - faithful burden bearers.



TO WHET OUR APPETITE FOR MALACHI
Mal. 1:1

I. We approach the new study--short book of Malachi.

A. One has called it "God's Love and Man's Response."

B. It's a question and answer book.
Charge & Response
Man & God seek for last word dialectical.

C. Physical Feature

1. 6th shortest book of O.T., 55 verses.

2. 12th shortest book of the Bible.

3. Last O.T. Prophet.

4. One man--Malachi--Messenger

5. Speaks with clarity, simplicity, directness, power.

6. 27 Questions.

7. Position in Canan never questioned.

a) In Jewish works 2000 BC.

b) Dead Sea Scrolls ref.

8. Quoted in N.T.

Matt. 11:10 "For this is he of whom it is written"

Matt. 17:12 "But I say unto you that Elijah"

Mark 1:2 "As it is written in the Prophets"

Mark 9:11-12 "And they asked Him, saying"

Luke 1:17 "And He shall go before him in the spirit"

Rom. 9:13 "As it is written Jacob have I loved"

9. It contains within it references to Christ.

Mal. 3:1

Mal. 4:2-3

Mal. 4:5-6

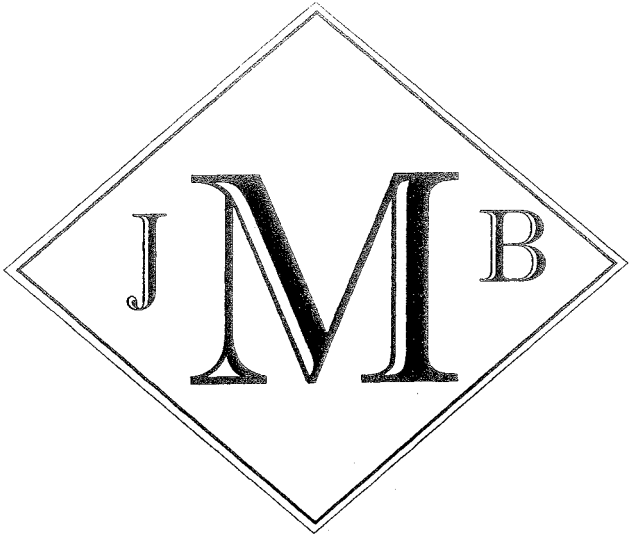
D. Time

1. Babylon fell 539 BC to Medo Persian force.
2. Cyrus sent people back.
3. 100 yrs. after return is Malachi.
4. Israel stayed Medo til Alex. 334-331 BC.
5. By this time new worn off, temple rebuilt but not so of city.
6. Still Persian domination.

E. Watch For

1. Lord of Host 24X.
2. Question & Answer repartee.
3. Anything Malachi writes about himself, a Peter says fellow elder.
4. Contemporary Ezra & Neb.--time, location our weakest
5. 1st words--the burden, oracle.
 - a) Word of the Lord.
 - b) Heavy message fraught with warnings of judgement.
 - c) Authentic, authoritative, fair.
 - d) Unbelievable answers via man Depressed, sullen, unbelief objects to Truth, cold people morally lax.
 - e) Called the Little O.T.
 - f) Last word--CURSE.
 - g) Violated worship, mixed marriages, refused to tithe, self equal with God.

6. Why do wicked live in luxury?
Why good people, square, fired 1st?
 7. MacLeigh play: if God is God he is not good; if God is good he's not God. If God rules why do evil things happen?
 8. Mark Twain--the mysterious stranger.
 - a) Two boys in woods.
 - b) Minature people build castle & surround tiny village, cloud burst, wipe out.
 - c) Why upset I can make more.
 - d) Where is God in tragedy?
 9. Loss of faith rarely a blowout-- it is usually a slow leak.
 10. Russia--Go to God for candy--none Stalin put candy in eye closed kids' hands--Stalin miracle worker-- God a failure.
 11. Our first words--I love you
Who is God?
 12. God can give you the good.
 13. What were people doing?
 - a) God does not need to call you.
 - b) Allows you to question his power & providence.
 - c) Made Scripture suit self.
 - d) Remain insensitive to God.
 - e) Talk Back Book.
- F. Last of 12 minor prophets.
G. Little connection from qt. to qt.
H. 400 yrs. of silence follows this book.



HAVE I FORGOTTEN MY BLESSINGS?

Mal. 1:2-5

- I. Knowing the propensity of man to:
 - A. Forget
 - B. Become careless
 - C. Overlook his blessings
 - D. Digress the will of God.

- II. God instituted at least two things for us.
 - A. The Remembrance via the Lord's Supper.
 - B. The Old Testament examples and prophecies.
 1. We'll study from Malachi's words.
 2. We'll find a people at odds with God because things had not turned out exactly as they expected from the hand of God.
 3. We'll note their ingratitude for past favors.
 4. We'll see them question God's power and providence.
 5. We'll see them exchange the Scriptures to suit their day.
 6. We'll remember the time element - 100 years after their return from Babylon and their current forgetting of God.

III. Malachi chooses a controversial beginning picture--God loved Jacob, hated Esau.

- A. Please do not see a predestination picture of a powerless man.
- B. Please do misinterpret "hate."
- C. Rather see it as God's statement of his love.

v-2 "I have loved you, saith the Lord.."

- 1. No greater words of confidence, consolation and energizing could come.
- 2. I have loved you and still do.

1 Jn 4:19 "We love him because he first loved..."

- a) What better way to describe grace?
- b) Special love--more than to others.
- c) Heb. tense - I have loved continually, will so love.
- 3. Above all else in answer to any complaint, know this fact-- I have loved you and still do!

D. "Yet ye say" - "wherein"

- 1. Theme of teh objector.
- 2. Eight times in Malachi
- 3. "Wherein"
 - a) Malachi a "talk back" book.
(Hunter)

- b) Attitude of people callous and insensitive toward a very sensitive God.
 - c) Root of their trouble or sin was their insensitivity to God's love and their own wickedness.
 - d) They were ingrates.
4. Our lesson - are we insensitive to our blessings?
- a) Our nation
 - b) our religious freedom
 - c) Our heritage of truth
- E. God answers Esau and Jacob
1. Brothers
2. Chosen while in womb - was Esau then a person or tissue?
3. Esau
- a) Present meant everything
 - b) For corn and wine he could forget the hope of the future.
 - c) We cannot live a life of mere animal enjoyment and be fulfilled. (Nicoll)
4. Jacob
- a) Second born - trickster
 - b) Religious
 - c) Believed in a person above and beyond himself.
5. Love - Hate
- a) To give greater weight to his reproof he begins by reminding

them of mercies they earlier
received via Israel.

- b) Before either did anything God
made a choice.

Gen. 25:23

- c) Not predestination but contrast
of two nations.
d) Think of source of our
blessings.

Rom. 5:8 "God commendeth his love..."

Eph. 3:18-19

- e) One builder sees two stones--
one builder takes one stone,
polishes it, places it, leaves
other untouched. Does polished
stone have any right to boast
of its ability?

6. Hate

- a) Means only love less in KJV
times.
b) Hebrew hyperbole to exaggerate
a point.
c) Corporate personalities as
individuals represent a group.
d) God hates none before he
sins (Gen. 29:31).

F. Edom's fate

1. Laid waste his heritage to dragons
or jackals.
2. Impoverished admission - crushed.

3. Jacob can return says Lord, host
 - a) Used 20 plus times in 55 verses
 - b) God Almighty
4. Esau "they build - I throw down."
 - a) Israel could be restored but not them.
 - b) The sufferings of the righteous will end well; their grievances will be redressed. (Henry)
 - c) Edom has no promise to build on.
 - d) People's view
 - 1) Border of wickedness - no more known by its own name
 - 2) People of Lord's indignation

Ps. 137:7 "Remember O Lord the children.."

G. God's Love

1. Eyes shall see it.
2. Lord will be magnified in borders of Israel.

✓ ● If you block God's love, as the Edomites did, you put yourself in a dangerous position. This is a third aspect of this word hate. The same thing which can bless you can also kill you. It depends on your relationship to that thing.

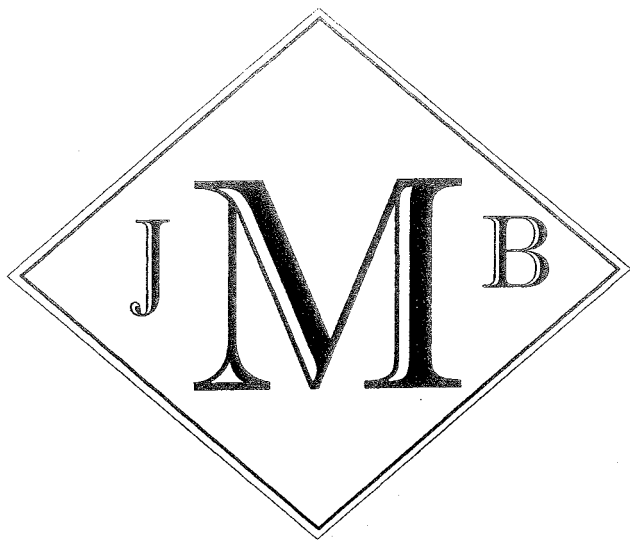
✓ Electricity is like that. Years ago *Life* magazine showed pictures of an experiment. A man standing on a carefully insulated metal globe was holding a wire which was charged with 13,000 volts of electricity. His hair stood on end and he reported that he felt "tingly." It was what you might call an electrifying experience. However, because he was not grounded the electricity did not actually travel through him, and he was unharmed. On the other hand, had he stepped off that globe onto the ground, he would have been killed instantly. Why? Because the electricity "liked" him one way and "disliked" him the other? No. His own condition determined the impact of the electric charge. The nature of the electricity did not change.

✓ So it is with God's love. To accept it, to live in it, is an exhilarating, life-changing experience. To refuse that power which is reaching out to redeem the world, to ground it, is to destroy yourself.

He begins in this way.

Who is God? He's the judge in a black robe seated behind a great dark desk on which lies a huge ledger with heavy covers and metal clasps. His satisfaction comes from putting black marks beside our names in that ledger. Day after day, He peers over the edge of heaven, watching. "There goes Simeon, headed right for the ditch. That's just like him. If I've told him once, I've told him a thousand times, 'Stay out of the ditch!' Whoops, there he went. Right in, head first. Well, too bad. That's another black mark for him."

Too many of us think God is out to get us. Oh, we know better with our minds, but our feelings...



POLLUTED PEOPLE OFFER POLLUTED WORSHIP

Malachi 1:6-9

I. God continues his controversy with His people via Malachi.

- A. You will note that a departing people offer a deviant worship.
- B. Worship must be true.
- C. Truth must be expressed in the right spirit, else it's evil.
- D. These words speak to the "do your own thing" people of our day.
- E. They underscore the necessity of respect, reverence, truth, sincerity, in worship. Let's see these principles.

II. "We begin with" (As Peter Jennings says) the vertical relationship.

A. In life: *Im perfect denotes Reiterated Action*

1. A Son honors his father. *Eph 20:12*

*Deut 5:16
Eph 6:1*

- a) Man that shows no honor to his Father is an unnatural Son.
- b) Homes today with no fathers cannot reach the relationship God normally expects for a family--our job to keep families together not majoring on scriptural divorces.
- c) A son will always be his father's debtor for what has been done for him as Dad fulfills his rightful role.
- d) Biblical for children to respect parents--not sue them as in Sweden.

*receives time & again, implied what is expected
Honor = blessing
Acknowledge
Dad's weight
Put to death
Eph 21:15
:17*

2. Servant honors his master. *= King*

a) Rightful respect requested.

Servant = free laborer, or employee or slave

b) Else it's anarchy.

c) Right to have "a boss."

B. God asks "Where is mine honor?"

1. Having earlier spoken of the Love of the Lord --(v-2)"I have loved you"--now turns to the thanklessness of men.
2. Three grounds to honor God: the Father, the Master, the King. *Last vs*
3. We are God's children and He is our Father--where is our respect & fear?
4. Pungent "where is mine honor?"
5. God calls Israel "my Son." *Ezo 4:22*
6. Do we fear Him? *Opposite is to evaluate God as insignificant - deny Him his "weight"*
 - a) Reverence
 - b) Adoration
 - c) Sacrifice
 - d) Obedience
 - e) Worship
7. God wants fear as a Lord, honor as a Father, and love as a husband.
8. If we pollute the family order, how can we understand this?

III. God Accuses the Priests.

A. Priest despises my name.

1. God said this remember.
2. Simeon points out the accusation & interrogations are extremely pointed intimating a mind justly incensed.

B. Despise--how?

1. Lives deny what lips profess.

Jer. 48:10 "Cursed is he that does the work of the Lord deceitfully."

Service not a joy but a miserable job

2. Note contempt comes from those who most should honor him. (Pusey)
3. Profession & Practice should always be in accord.
4. "We despise the name of the Lord by slovenly attitude & shoddy service." (Elwell)

C. People come back with the familiar "wherein"?

1. Profess to be unconscious as to how they offend God?
2. Has the Devil anesthetized us?

D. God's Quick Answer.

1. In every instance God sustains his charge by detail recitation of proving events. It is not an imagined offense.
2. Offer Polluted Bread on God's Altar.
 - a) Act like it's their altar to do whatever they please.
 - b) Worship must be from a right principle and in the right manner. (Scott)
3. Polluted Bread. *Not Pragmatic*
 - a) Meal offering or showbread not put on altar. *Not Plural/ISM*
 - b) Polluted in that it was contrary to the law of God.
 - c) Polluted when not in accord with the word.
 - d) They were playing at religion.
 - e) Anything will do for God if we keep some form of his word, doesn't have to be exact--sincere or convenient suffices.



E. Wherein Polluted Thee?

1. People ever defensive and shake off every accusation.
2. Instead of repentance they offer a rebuttal.

F. God spoke--Said Table Contemptible.

- No principles necessary*
1. Table is Altar. *Noticed to approach it*
 - a) Sacrifice food to God. *respect*
 - b) Eaten by fire in the symbol.
 2. Place of slaughter also.

Ezek
41:22

Ezek. 40:39-43

3. They say contemptible more in deeds than in words.

G. Proof of Contemptibility

1. Offer Blind
 - a) Forbidden by law.

Deut. 15:21 "If there be any blemish...not sacr!"

- b) Perfection essential quality.

Lev. 22:19-25 Be perfect

2. Please Note:
 - a) A cheap religion costing nothing is rejected by God.
 - b) If we worship God ignorantly and without understanding we will bring the blind for sacrifice. (Henry)

3. Brought the Lamb

- a) Rich folks tried to give cheap things.
- b) To keep the best for ourselves makes us transgress the love of God we must show.

4. "Is it not evil?"

- a) What an indictment of pluralism of our day.

Is it not good - RSV wrong NIV 5.

b) Conscience so dull they felt

The ritual is nothing when violating the law of God. *offered by people, accepted by priest + all contrary to law*

stipulations

c) To go in direct opposition to God's commands they know & surely we do also is evil.

Priest ultimately responsible

d) Do we pollute by sin and alteration of the word?

H. Try it with the Governor!

responsibility

1. God appeals to their own instinctive thought of propriety to fellow creatures.
2. Would you voluntarily offer the Governor such cheap things?
3. Would not the gift be an insult?
4. Would not God be indignant if He were only placed on a footing of equality with man?

IV. Will You Change? Beseech God that He be Gracious. *Grand cordial reception*

- A. Is this irony? Lit. "Face of God." *irony*
- B. Will you change? Of course there is time. *Appease, make weak, soften, soothe face of God*
- C. God does not require the ornamentation of the altar but the devotion of the complying offerer.
- D. Or do you think He'll accept you for who you are?
 1. Will He show favor to your intercessions?
 2. Will He allow you to continue to deviate?

God will show mercy to honest appeal

3. "Some prefer their own ease to God's service, their own will to God's precepts, their own interest to God's honor". (Simeon)
4. And what about us?

George White Retired 9/26/92

Central church, Sparta, TN - 10/4/92

Harding Lectureship - 9/27/93

No. Jackson, Jackson, TN (BC) - 10/3/93

Neely's Bend BC - 11/23/03

Heritage C/C - 5/16/04

Dear God,

Do you get your angels to do all the work?
Mommy says we are her angels and we have to
do everything.

Love,
Maria

Oh Lord,

Thank you for giving me my Dad and Mother.
And there children, and dog and fish. Thank
you for giving us the nice world to live in.
And eyes to see it. And what we eat and
brains to think. Thank you for everything.

Love,
Maxine

Dear God,

We are going on vacation for two weeks
Friday so we won't be in church. I hope you
will be there when we get back, when do you
take your vacation.

Goodbye
Donnie

Dear God,

Church is alright but you could sure use
better music. I hope this does not hurt
your feelings. Can you write some new songs?

Your friend
Barry

FROM: Children's Letters To God

Dear Mr. God,

How do you feel about people who do not believe in you? Somebody else wants to know.

A friend,

Neil

Dear God,

When you wrote the Bible you made up all the words and spelled them the way you like. That is great. Most of the time I do it like that, but I'm not doing so good.

Ron

Dear God,

If you do all these things you are pretty busy. Now here's my question. When is the best time I can talk to you. I know you are always listening but when will you be listening hard in Troy, New York.

Sincerely yours

Allen

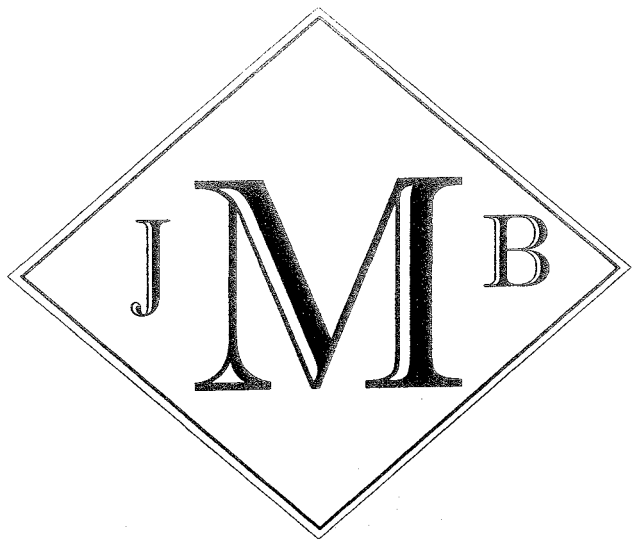
Dear God,

What is it like when you die. Nobody will tell me, I just want to know, I don't want to do it.

Your friend,

Mike

FROM: Children's Letters To God



THREE SUPPLEMENTS

Malachi 1:6-10

I. More about priests (1:6).

A. Did priest consider God either as Father or Master?

1. There were inescapable obligations they were violating.
2. Implies Scriptures were authoritative.
3. Also implied they were innocent and unconscience of sin.

Matt. 7:22-23

4. Appeal to fifth commandment.

B. Longest section of Malachi is indictment of priests.

1. Harsh and severe.
2. Any father or master receives honor from son or slave.
3. If you do not love God deeply you can move to despise Him.
4. People were not upset about God.
5. How much is God worth to you?
6. Can you please Him?
Is He worth the effort?
7. Despise God's name.
 - a. Eight times my name - 1:6,11, 2:2,5; 3:16; 4:122
 - b. Means his character, his reputation.

8. Effrontery to reply to God.
9. Appeal to Exodus 20-12 - Honor thy...

II. About Parents

Exodus 20:12 "Honor thy father"..

- A. Any father is expected to receive honor from son.
 1. Tell of Snell family and one required hour all to be at table.
 2. God asks nothing that's abnormal.
- B. True in every age.

III. About Worship

A. What do we offer God?

1. Polluted bread?
 - a. Means entirety of bloody sacrifice--not just bread.

Lev. 21:6

Ezek. 44:7

- Note*
- b. Bread means food.
 - c. Any offense against the table was same as against God Himself.

2. Note polluted.

Thee (v-7) Heb. 10:29

Yes!

B. What was to be offered?

1. The best animal.
 - a. Clean sheep, goats, beef.
 - b. 250,000 lambs at Pentecost.
 - c. Special gutter to carry blood.

- 2 Sam. 24:24 *Cost nothing*
- d. Not pigs, camels, dogs.
 2. They substituted.
 - a. Lame, cripple, blind -
Deut. 15:21. *Be wished*
 - b. Would governor receive it?
Means lieutenant or viceroy.
 - c. Is God worth your best?
 3. Can't substitute not only imperfect but anything not prescribed.
 - a. Perversion is sinful.
 - b. Not saxophone duet for singing only prescribed!
 4. Nor rote for heart worship.
 5. Can we give God only what we do not need?
 6. Animal had to be perfect as it points to Jesus.

John 1:29 *Behold the Lamb of God*

C. If it's not done correctly shut it down! Malachi 1:10

1. God will not accept:
 - a. Cheap
 - b. Substitute
 - c. Rote
2. Matt. 6:21 Heart - Treasure

~~2 Cor. 8:1~~

~~2 Cor. 8:6-9~~

~~Micah 6:6-8~~ *Lead*

~~Hosea 14:1~~

Spirituality ***** *Attending church can't make you a Christian; staying away can't either*
↑ *Healy Law*

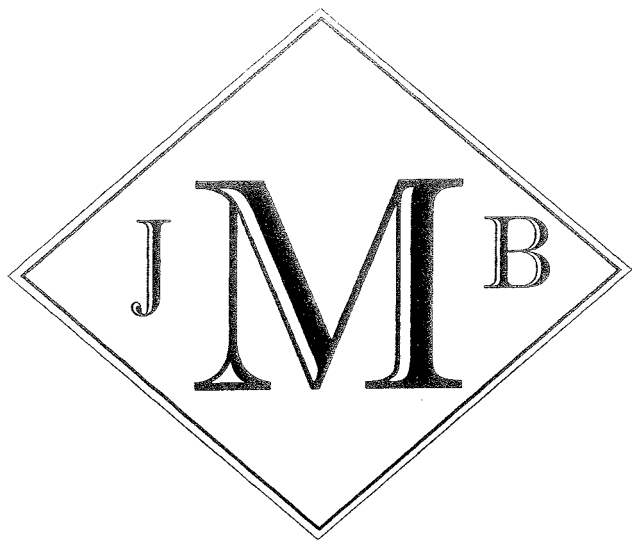
In my youth, science was more important to me than either man or God. I worshiped science. Its advance had surpassed man's wildest dreams. It took many years for me to discover that science, with all its brilliance, lights only a middle chapter of creation.

I saw the aircraft I love destroying the civilization I expected it to save. Now I understand that spiritual truth is more essential to a nation than the mortar in its cities' walls.

For when the actions of people are undergirded by spiritual truths, there is safety. When spiritual truths are rejected, it is only a matter of time before civilization will collapse. We must understand spiritual truths and apply them to our modern life. We must draw strength from the almost forgotten virtues of simplicity, humility, contemplation and prayer. It requires a dedication beyond science, beyond self, but the rewards are great and it is our only hope.

-Charles A. Lindbergh

1000 Stories & Quotations by Famous People
Wayne E. Warner, Baker Book House



THERE WILL BE A GREAT TOMORROW

Malachi 1:10-11

I. Most of the time things balance out.

A. Weather vs. crops.

B. Sickness vs. health.

C. Man's failure vs. God's future.

1. This is the story to tell you.

2. Our text Malachi 1:10-11

II. See Man's Weaknesses *A priestly set, independent of spiritual attitude of moral integrity,*

A. Door Shutters & Fire Kindles *is negated*

v-10 "Who is there even among you"

1. Is this a rebuke of mercenary spirit?

2. Do we have to pay priests to shut temple doors & build fires?

3. Or does it mean God is looking for a man who will shut doors & put out fires that offend Him?

4. Or does it mean it's better to shut it all down and have no sacrifice rather than offer vain worship.

Better to have no pretense of worship than have it profane.

5. Whatever man is short in the ideal.

6. God has no pleasure--term of repudiation and disgust.

B. What role do I fulfill for God?

III. God's Tomorrow

A. Rising Sun Figure *(Whole Earth)* Going Down

1. God's majesty to be worldwide.

2. Shows prayer and worship not confined to one people and one nation.

3. Ever intended that Moses' law be abolished.

God is honored in multiple places far beyond Jewish sacrifices

offerings need to please God

1:11-12

B. Name Great Among Gentiles

1. God deals with each man individually.
2. Contrasts profanity of favored priest & piety of denied Gentiles.

C. Every Place Incense.

1. Does not support incense in churches--if so, Zech. 14:16-21 sends you regularly to Jerusalem. (Ellicott)
2. Thus Jewish ceremonial law not a perpetual obligation.
3. Their own prophecies point to a better dispensation.
4. Wants the increase of a devout spirit & offering of a pure heart.
5. Offer no pertinacious prayers.

IV. Where Would I Fit in the Picture?

A. Of worship do I say: Profane, Polluted, Contemptible? *Profane = to despise, de file*

1. They habitually profaned --not an accidental, regrettable mistake.
2. They professed ignorance as to how they did it.
3. Polluted by inconsistent lives. Said one thing, did another.
4. Contemptible--Weariness. *Hardshell Bored*
 - a) An onerous service.
 - b) Intolerable burden.
 - c) "Man by crudity of thoughts, narrowness of creeds, worldliness of spirit brings religion into popular contempt."

Better to be speechless than to blaspheme

Priest allowed people to cheat - ^(P.C.) ~~love~~ Deut 23:21-22

- d) Despise any positive law & you despise the lawgiver. (Pusey)
 - e) Bad sign when worship is a weariness.
 - f) Worse when preachers do and show it.
5. Snuffed at it. *What produces contempt?*
- a) Snuffed. *regularity - light seedling*
 - b) Puffed, pooh-pooed it.

B. Showing in their offerings.

1. Torn, Lame, Sick

*Welfare
ex at
10%
increase
contri*

- a) We show our respect to our fellowman via nature of our gifts.
- b) Norvel's duck broken neck.
- c) Enormous sums for self, fag end for God.
- d) Self vindication is natural to fallen man.
- e) Self justification is offensive to God.
- f) No sin marked with great displeasure than self-righteousness and self-applause. (Simeon)
- g) Torn--taken by violence, unjustly taken, stolen, robbed, spoiled.

D. God Won't Accept *Sacrifice must belong to man who brought it*

- 1. Deceiver cursed.
- a) Heartless

Deut. 28:58-59

- b) Wrong worship ever incurs the displeasure of Heaven.

- 2. Some offered female with the pretense of having no male in flock.

God accepts no stolen animal

*lev 5:23
6:4
19:13*

Amos 5:21

3. Do we regard the morals of those that serve--thief administer your baptism?
4. Light tone of speech toward God shows loss of spiritual health.
5. God is shut up in our circled holidays but not allowed to range through our lives daily. (Hubbard)

D. Remember Who God Is.

↓ 1. Great King.

- DE NOTS
ON WORSHIP
2 COR 13:2
3
12
2 COR 13:6
7*
- a) "We are to believe everything God says because He says it, to love everything he loves because he loves it, and to execute everything he enjoins because He commands it." (Simeon)
 - b) Abraham offering Isaac had no right to gainsay the decree of Heaven.
 - c) No King like Him.
 - d) Reverence for the great King keeps the gate of the soul shut against intruders. (P.C.)

2. Name is Dreadful

- a) Held in awe.
- b) Reverence.

Neely's Bend BC - 11/30/03

Heritage - 5/30/04

Mark Russell
Attending church can't make you a
Christian; staying away won't either.

Gladys Case

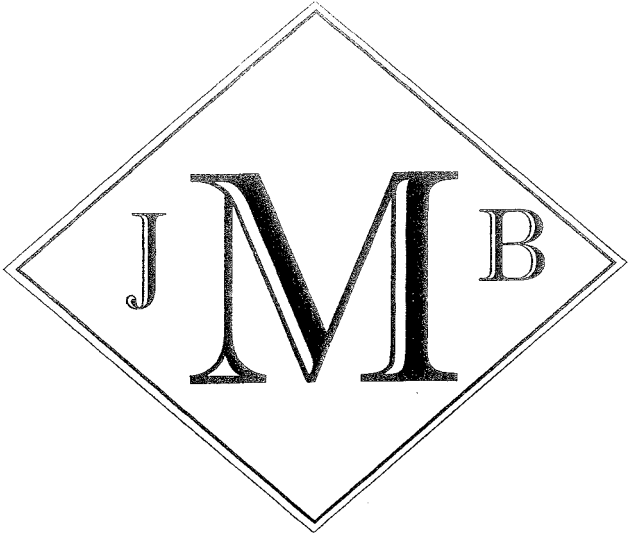
In Practice
In preparation for seasonal
floods, the town's civil defense
official asked the minister how
many people the church could
sleep in an emergency.
"Well," replied the preacher,
"We sleep 30 to 50 at Sunday
morning services."
Richmond, Va. Mrs. E.O.

Some Thoughts I'd Like To Share... by Tim Hall

"Buried Resources"

An eerie story was carried by the Associated Press on November 4. It seems a robbery took place in North Charleston, SC. Someone broke in and stole about \$1,000 from Nancy Mitchell. Broke into her home? No, they broke into her tomb. She had been buried the day before with money placed in her cold hands by loving relatives. Whoever committed this crime knew what they were looking for, authorities speculated.

That's pretty low, isn't it? To take money from a grave shows a great disrespect for those who have passed on. But isn't there another sad statement here? What about burying resources that could have been put to good use? The money placed in that casket could have helped preach the gospel to the lost or feed the hungry. Once sealed and buried, though, the money was of no value to anyone.



NOTES FOR MALACHI, CHAPTER 2

Verse 1 - Someplace it is called admonitions, another commandments. It is not a suggestion--it is a command. It has these ingredients within it: Honor God vs. disgrace God. Give glory to God ten times in Malachi as we find the name of God.

Malachi 1:6 - 2 times; Malachi 1:11 - 3 times; Malachi 1:14; Malachi 2:5-6; Malachi 3:16; Malachi 4:2 - seven times in the first 16 verses of the Book. It represents God Himself.

Verse 1 and 2 - Speaks of the curse in Deuteronomy 28:20-29, and the curse could be failure of rain, disease, drought, crop failure or famine.

Verse 3 - The seed could either be offspring or the crops, Deut. 28:20-24. Offal is the intestines of the sacrifice with the contents still in the intestines. Burn the sacrificial offal and all its remains, dispose of it as taught in Leviticus 16:27. Get it out of the camp, Exo. 29:14; Lev. 8:17.

Verse 4 - Has covenant in it--284 times and it's also translated treaty, agreement, compact, to find. It is an agreement between two parties. You can cut a covenant (see Genesis 15:18; Exodus 23:32).

Covenant comes from the Hebrew word "beget," and it means a treaty between human beings or a treaty with a king, or it means the marriage of a husband and wife.

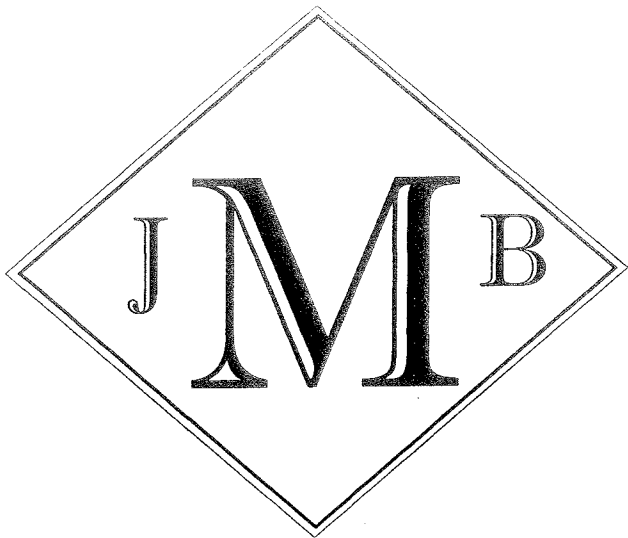
Five times the covenant in the Old Testament is used in Genesis 9:1-7, this was with Noah. There's one with Abraham, Genesis 15:1-3. There's the mosaic covenant, Jeremiah 31:27-40; also Ezekiel 36:22-38. It means the blessing of the promise that all parties make to each other. Covenant is used five times in Malachi. Covenant has to do with the faithfulness of religious leaders, see Malachi 2:1-9; faithfulness to others, 2:10; faithfulness to Christ, to God and to the family.

Verse 5 - Covenant of peace. Only here in the Bible and like it is Numbers 25:12. Phinehas is an example of faithfulness.

Verse 6 - The priests' duties were to teach the Word.

And the question: Is the preacher respected as much today as in the past?

What is your opinion?



A SHOCKING ILLUSTRATION

Mal. 2:1-4

I. Common courtesy and refinement leads to avoidance of some words and illustrations. But God with great boldness shocks us. (Bro. Cruise put a mirror in a casket & had folk walk by to see a dead church member.)

A. Remember God wants a spiritual revival & reformation when duties sag.

B. He wants none to die rather turn & live.

C. He uses persuasion, desire, terror, comparison, praise to influence the human mind. *Tells them they are privileged to talk*

D. We need to also grasp urgency--NOW!

II. God's Wake Up Call

A. Particularly the Priests.

1. Wants a practical & personal application of his word.
2. Greater requirement comes to teachers.
3. We are priests (1 Pet. 2:9).
4. To whom much is given much is required. *Honored position Ex 28:19-46*
5. Very personal--you Priests.
6. If preacher sins he brings down others.

B. This commandment is for you.

1. Not a suggestion. *Judgment is conditions*
2. Hard to miss point!

3. Hear--lay to heart.

- a) Complete dedication.
- b) Moral laws are to inculcate & administer as regal forces of his own soul. (P.C.)

when & why did church change?

Eph 6:6

Down to God from the heart.

2.

4. Give glory unto God's name.

1:6 Name
1:11 Name
2:2
2:5

- a) High aim of all.
- b) Pride hinders as we are lifted up via abundance also our avariciousness. *we affect our children*

3:16 C. Curse--even on Blessing.

- 4:2 1. Urgent they act, else curse comes.
- Curse* 2. Cause words of blessing to become a curse. *Comes only after sin*
- Deut 28:20* 3. Blessings are cursed if God deprives us of the power to enjoy them.
- Lev 16:27*
- Ez 29:14*

Exempt

29:4X

Treaty

Agreement

Compact

Bind

Wipe nose in dung

Smell like garbage so throw out

- (Nicoll)
- 4. In fact it was being done.
- 5. When temporal blessings do not lead us to God they will lead us to hell. (Clark) *Curse them & they shall be*
- D. Of the Curse *Ps. 106:15*
- 1. Corrupt your seed--posterity. *(Children)*
- 2. Spread dung on your face.

- a) Hard figure to grasp.
- b) I will rebuke your arm thus neutralize your official duties--arm instrument of labor and blessing. (P.C.)
- c) Wither your power.
- d) Get the dung of the maw as your part rather than the maw.
- e) Dung was to be carried out of the camps & burned.

Exo. 29:14 "But the flesh of the bullock"

- f) Face--could mean in your presence.
- g) Scatter offal in one's presence is an insult.

Don't trifle e holy things!

- h) Your solemn feast--not mine since you are self-willed.
- i) Take you away with it.

- (1) Cleave to you wherever you go.
- (2) Taken from your place of honor in the temple to a place where offal is taken.
- (3) So revolting is your sacrifice all end in the dung heap.

D. I Have A Covenant.

1. Original with Phinehas, Aaron's grandson.

Nu. 25:12-13 (Read) *As 2 despised people - humiliated*

2. Can lose your portion.
3. Yet we can change it & make it only ours--not the service of God.

1 Sam. 2:30-31 (Read)

4. We best come sueing God for mercy as did Benhadad with rope around his neck.

1 Kings 20:31-32

5. Reason these dismissed - you have not followed my way - Have ^{we}?

2.) Follow = guard, keep

b) God stipulates His way

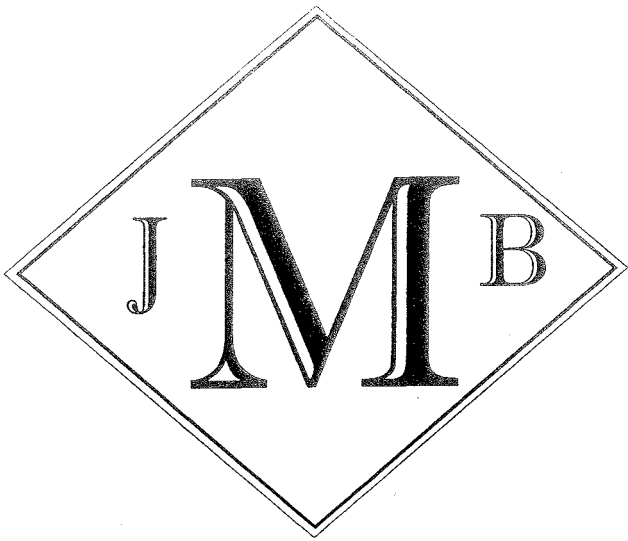
2. Privilege to be a priest - and teach God's word!

7. Priest lead people to higher ground

Neely's Bend BC - 12/14/03

Heritage C/C - 6/6/04

*Carried off -
disposed of
Annual - corrupt,
waste, spoil*



J

M

B

PRIESTHOOD CHANGES: DUTIES REMAIN

Mal. 2:5-9

I. There is little doubt God still has his priests--every believer is one.

I Pet. 2:9 *Chosen people for His Kingdom* *Rec 1:6* *should be priests* *made King*

II. That he had them of old in a special order is a certain fact.

A. Levi -- Aaron -- Phinehas

B. They had 26 orders.

III. They were assigned qualifying duties--in principle these remain.

Mal. 2:5-9

IV. Our task is to see these continuing expectations of Biblical principles.

V. Those Expectations:

A. Covenant Keepers

Eyo 31-2529

Mal. 2:5 "My Covenant was with him"

1. Covenant and Content

a) Mutual engagement entered into by two parties.

b) Each takes pledge.

c) Each is exonerated from keeping his pledge if the other party breaks it.

d) Life & Peace

(1) Life -- permanence

(2) Peace -- prosperity

2. Covenant Attitude

Mal. 2:5 "For the fear wherewith he feared"

a) Man takes a part in the covenant on condition he fears, reverences, worships, obeys.

b) Fear--sincere, good conscience, respect.

Lincoln clip

Teach = to point to the things of God, Exposit 2.

B. Law of Truth was in his mouth.

- 1. All teachings must be in divine law.

Deut. 31:10-13

- 2. No false doctrine or perverse judgment to be found in him. (P.C.)

- 3. Does not handle word deceitfully.

C. Iniquity was not found in his lips.

- 1. No two standards of morality-- preacher & pew. Not inconsistent

Rom. 1:8

1 Cor. 4:1-2 - Read

Job 33:3 - Read

- 2. "Don't teach well & live ill." (Pusey)

- 3. Some acted contrary to their functions. Turn in pencils - 6/8/2006

- 4. His conversation was agreeable to his doctrine.

D. Walked with me in Peace & Equity.

- 1. Teach correctly so that they may thus frame all actions properly.

- 2. Teachings are true & his life is pure and good.

- 3. Enoch & Noah.

Gen. 5:24 "walked c God & he was not found"

Gen. 6:9 Noah - rt man, blameless, walked c God

- 4. Walk--constant intercourse with God.

- 5. Peace

Heb. 12:14 "Pursue peace c all men"

2 Cor. 13:11 - Read Wedding risk: sides already?

Matt. 5:9 Blessed are the peace makers

- 6. You are the ideal of some--what manner of man ought we to be.

- 7. Law directed his own life too.

One out of 4 mentally ill - OK 3 friends - You are it

8. Nothing contrary to Justice.

9. Peace--kept union with God.

E. Did Turn Many Away From Iniquity!

1. Teach it everywhere. *Evangelist*

Ps. 119:46 *Speak at thy best. 64 things. not where*

2. Fight the iniquity around us.

3. You will know success.

4. Those who preach sound doctrine, live good lives, both in accord with Scripture, will reach others.

*Since
conscious
intentional
offense*

F. Lips should keep knowledge. *Skilhouse*

1. Must study & know it, to teach faithfully. *ABT-fries, brown sausage-gravy*

2. Recognized as a good source of information.

G. Seek the Law as His Mouth.

1. You know & impart the truth. *disperse*

~~Lev. 10:11~~ *Read Ready, Capable, motivated to*

~~Deut. 33:10~~ *Keys made while you wait / to wait*

~~2 Chron 15:3-21~~ *Blessing contingent on faithfulness*

~~2 Chron 17:8-9~~ *Read 17 of obedience*

~~Neh. 8:9~~

~~Micah 3:11~~ *9-12 Read*

2. "A self-styled ambassador with no instructions from his monarch is as pitiful as a minister uncertain as to what to teach in Christ's name."
(P.C.)

3. Not "I think."

4. But "all things whatsoever I command you."

H. Messenger of the Lord of Hosts.

~~Jer. 23:21~~ *Only OT saying priest = messenger of God
Must be faithful worshippers*

Pratt, Am. I. ?

1. Covenant Keeper
2. How as truth in mouth
3. Iniquity absent from hips
4. Work in peace & equity
5. Turn many from iniquity
6. Hips keep knowledge
7. Seek how at his mouth

Ye Are Messenger of Lord of Hosts

Central, Sparta, TN - 10/5/92

Okla. Christian (elders & preachers) - 1/26/93

Pratt, Kansas - 1/31/93

Maryville, TN - 2/7/93

Germantown, TN - 2/14/93

Smithville, TN - 2/28/93

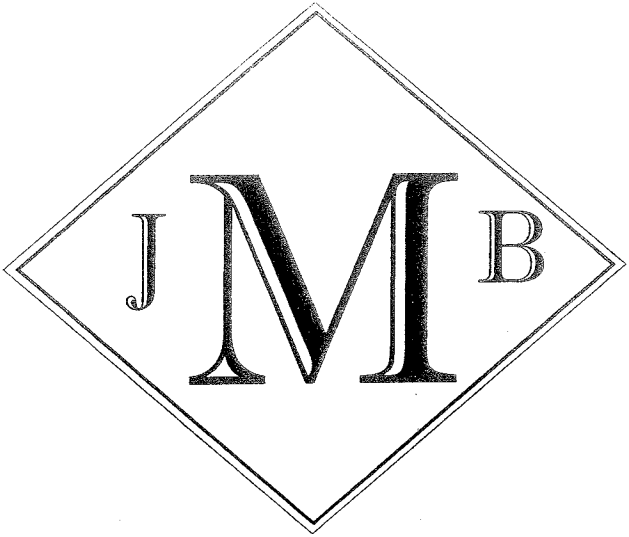
Harding Lectureship - 9/28/93

Neely's Bend BC - 12/28/03

Adairville, KY - 12/28/03

Heritage - 7/4/04

Riverwood - 7/7/04



MALACHI 2:6-9

1. Admonition - commandments.
2. Ten times reference to name of God.
3. Deut. 28:20-29 lists the curses.
4. Offal taker ousted, disposed of.
5. Levi= the priesthood.
6. Covenant of life and peace only here.
7. See Numbers 25:12 - likeness.
8. Priests spoke righteous words--nothing false, lived right lives and many from iniquity by example as well are right teachers.
9. Terrible to make any mine the way (Matt. 18:5-6.
10. Those in position of leadership in greatest danger of misleading others.
11. Unfaithful--not following his vows.
12. Leaders despised--rightful punishment.
13. Don't condemn all because of some.
14. Humans disappoint--Jesus never does.
15. Priests acted as justice in legal matters and were favorable to rich.
Deut. 17:9; 19:17; 16:19.

2:10

16. When men are not faithful to God they often are not to fellowman.
17. Two questions--affirmative answers expected.
18. Unfaithful in marriage, ordinary dealings business and the like.

19. Think of executives of our day.

2:11-12

20. Unfaithful by marrying daughter of foreign gods.

21. Detestable-- various abhorrence and repulsive things.

Deut. 7:25-26; 13:14; 20:18

22. Do not marry pagan--connects religion.

Ex. 34:11-16

Deut. 7:3

1 Kings 11:1-2

1 Cor. 7:39

2 Cor. 6:14-15

Neh. 13:23-28

23. Sanctuary--holiness, Lord's holy place, temple.

24. Three ways it desecrated temple:

(1) Temple defiled by presence of pagan.

(2) Nation as God's temple defiled by this practice.

(3) Priests married unbelievers and they unfit to serve.

Ezra 9:1-3

Neh. 13:28

25. Whoever--anyone who awakes and answers.

26. Master and scholar--teacher awakens, arouses, incites students to answer.

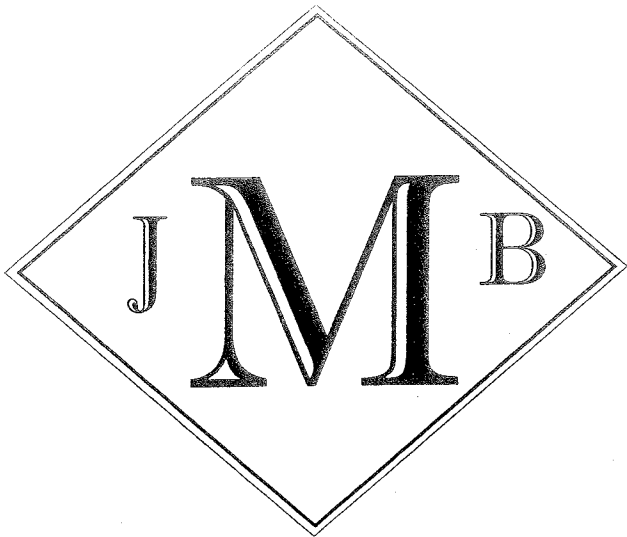
27. Awake - coming to life.

28. Awake and kicking.
 29. Cut off--excommunicate.
 Neh. 13:28

14

30. They married quite young Old Testament times.
 31. Talmud young man of 20 cursed if he's not married.
 32. Wife three phases: of youth, your partner, marriage covenant.
 33. Verse 15 most difficult.
 34. Sensible person does not divorce godly wife and marry another.
 35. Verse 15 - no man who divorces his wife uses good judgment.
 36. Three interpretations:
 (1) A sensible person does not divorce a godly wife and marry another.
 (2) Jews said it was Abraham "the one" who married a second wife.
 (3) God gave Adam only one wife--he could have made marry.
 37. Matt. 15:19 for things from the heart.
 38. God said "I hate sending her away."
 God sees the heartache of the rejected spouse, wounded children and destruction of society.
 39. God wants permanency but knows there can be divorce.

40. Spread garment--invitation to marry.
Ruth 3:9
41. Principles.
God expects us to be faithful.
Religious leaders should be.
If not they are a disgrace and lose
respect.
Deal faithfully and honestly.
Never be unequally yoked.
Be faithful.
Receives great reward.



YOU ARE GUILTY OF:

Mal. 2:8-10

- I. Malachi has just outlined the several characteristics of a priest. 9 things
- A. Ought to preserve knowledge.
 - B. From him men should seek instruction.
 - C. I had a covenant with him of life and peace.
 - D. I originated them.
 - E. They should produce reverence and stand in awe of God's name.
 - F. True instruction was in his mouth.
 - G. Nothing false was found on his lips.
 - H. He walked with me in peace and uprightness.
 - I. He turned many from sin.
- II. This is what every Christian should be doing--he is the messenger of the Lord Almighty.
- III. But the Priests of that day failed. They are guilty of three charges:
- A. Turning from the Way.
 - 1. Note the singularity.
 - 2. Such terms also describe the church.
- Exo. 32:8 *Turned aside quickly out of the way comm.*
Jer. 2:8 *Hardened law knew me not praters transgress*
Prov. 22:6 *Tiam up a child in the way he should go*
Heb. 10:20 *By a new & living way which he hath cut.*
Acts 16:17 *These men are servants "show us the way*
2 Peter 2:15 *which have forsaken the st. way*
Acts 9:2 *if he found any of the way*
Acts 18:25-26 *Apollos way of the hard*
Acts. 19:23 *Arose a small stir about that way*
Acts. 24:14 *After the way which they call heresy*
Acts 24:22 *more perfect knowledge of that way*
u-24 concern faith

B. By your teaching you have caused many to stumble.

Jer. 18:15 *stumbled from ancient paths*

- 1. Duty to guard from violation--keep error out.
- 2. Make it too easy or hard.

C. You have violated the covenant.

Jer. 33:21 *Brof surth people sign wanders straw, wood*

- 1. God charged them with this.

IV. This results in certain things accountable for 4 things.

A. I have caused you to be despised.

I Sam. 2:30 *Wzlk by me forever*

- 1. Punishment due to come.

B. Led you to be humiliated before all the people.

Ps. 35:4 *Con founded & put to shame*
Acts 8:32-33 *sheep to slaughter - humiliation*

Jer. 19:8 *City a hiss*

Ps. 44:14 *By word - shaking of head*

C. You have not followed my ways.

D. You have shown partiality in matters of the law.

Exo. 18:16 *I Judge between one & another*

Acts 10:34 *No respecter of persons*

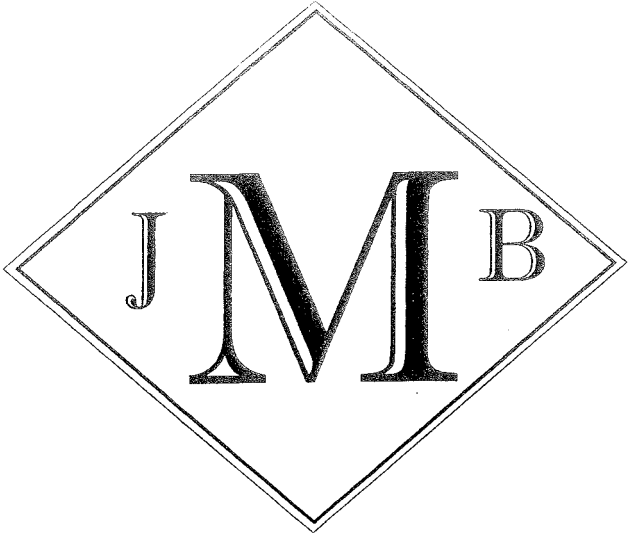
Rom 2:11 *Circussion*

1 Sam. 2:17 *Sin great by word*

- 1. Evil and injustice not to abet him
- 2. Showed respect for the person not the law.
- 3. Shade truth to protect guilty.

Neely's Bend - 1/4/04

Heritage - 7/11/04



PEACE AMONG BRETHREN

Malachi 2:10

I. I can't think of anything harder to bear than quarrels in the family: be it our own physical one or the family of God.

A. In Malachi's time it was obvious that the people in the family of God were not getting along.

Mal. 2:10 "Have we not all one father? hath not one God created us? why do we deal treacherously every man against his brother, by profaning the covenant of our fathers?"

1. All one father--so brothers--be loyal.
2. Do not initiate destructive ways.

Deut. 18:9-13 "When thou art come into the land..."

3. Profane the covenant.
4. Remembering who we are and to whom we are kin--be at peace.

B. V.11 Judah dealt treacherously.

1. Profaned holiness of the Lord.
2. Daughter implies the bearing, characteristics of the family.
3. Married daughter of a foreign God so none of the children will be faithful to the Lord.
4. Reformation under Ezra gone sour.

5. Marriage has three parts:
man, woman, God.
6. Man does not have the right to
allow what God has forbidden.
7. Shows the wrath of God--God
cuts him off.
8. V.12 shows three people so to
speak. Teacher and scholar
(waketh and answered), son and
grandson.
Master and servant.
Stranger and kinsman.
9. God's a witness at marriage.

Gen. 31:49-50 Mizpah

Prov. 2:16-17 "Which forsaketh the guide of
of her youth. ."

10. It is a divine institution.
11. Treacherously--act secretly,
deceptively, to break forth.
12. God calls it an abomination.

C. They make the altar ineffective.

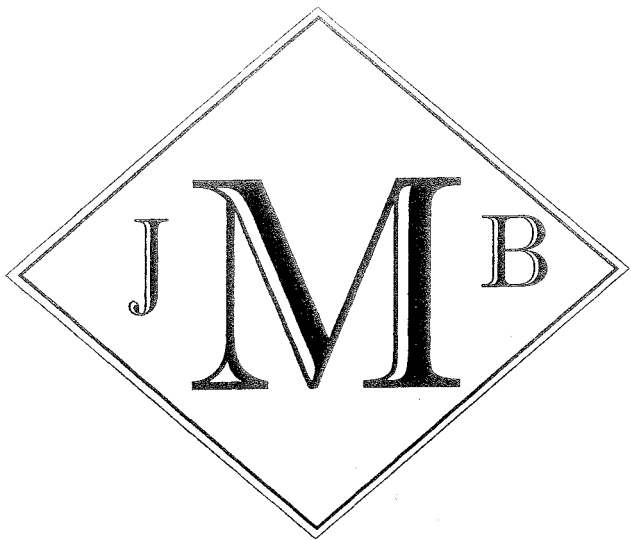
1. Repeated disobedience.
2. Covered it with tears.
3. Rejected wives covered altar with
tears.
4. Corrupt is to mar, violate.
5. Dedicated to worship pagans.

Ezra 9:1-2 "Have not separated themselves"

Neh. 13:26-27 "Solomon did outlandish.."

6. Receives it not with goodwill--
God rejected their worship.
- D. Purpose of marriage to produce
a godly seed.
1. Union with foreign wives would
not produce this.
 2. God wanted union to continue
(v.14).
 3. Wife of youth, companion, wife
of thy covenant.
- E. God made one pair--Adam and Eve.
1. Could have made a million pairs.
 2. Messiah from one pair.

Neely's Bend - 1/18/04
Heritage - 7/18/04



THE HIGHER CALL

Mal. 2:10-12

- I. Why should I deal honorably with you?
- A. It's expected.
 - B. It's safe.
 - C. It's good politics.
 - D. It brings its rewards--all true, but there is a higher reason!
 - 1. You are made in the image of God.
 - 2. We have the same Father.
 - 3. You are thus my brother--if I abuse you I insult our Heavenly parent.

II. God does not lightly take one man abusing another.

A. Malachi spoke to this.

Mal. 2:10 "Have we not all one"

B. Let's study this charge.

III. Human Relations Improve When I See Your Origin.

A. Before approaching the subject in hand there are previous matters to arrest us.

1. I need to be a holy influence and "turn many away from iniquity."

(v-6)

a) "Those who preach sound doctrine, live good lives, both according to the Scriptures are successful in reaching others."
(Scott)

b) Whole life is to be a visible lesson as we "walk with God."

2 Cor. 3:3

Phil. 4:9

1 Thess. 4:8

- c) Not all servants are crowned with equal success but none labor in vain.
- d) We've a high calling.

Acts 26:18

1 Thess. 1:9-10

- 2. Knowing this I am still tempted to practice partiality--good to those who are good to me; who will benefit me.
 - a) Interpret word differently for rich--powerful vs poor.

v-9 "You have been partial in the Lord"

- b) Lit. "knew faces."
- c) We stumble at, not in the law.
- d) "Perverted the law to please great men or to serve some unworthy design." (Wesley)

- 3. None of this sufficient alone to bring me to full duty to you. We look to a higher reason.

B. We Have One Father, Creator. *Isa 64:8*

- 1. That is God. *(Have)*
- 2. If I sin against you I offend your Father--do we not so feel in earthly family relations?
- 3. Since we are God's new creation every offense against each other is one offense against God.

1 Cor. 8:12

- 4. He who is false to God will not be true to his friend.
- 5. This is the ascending reason for my behavior pattern.

Note us - Mol. was one c his people

IV. So An Obvious Question:

A. Why deal treacherous with Brothers?

1. It's to act faithlessly. *Deut 18:9-13*
2. We cannot stoop so low.
3. We must not profane the covenant.
 - a) Corrupt practices are the result of corrupt principles. (Scott)
 - b) Teaching is more noble than ceremony.
 - c) Covenant with Phinehas.

Exo. 32:26-28

Deut. 33:8-10

Nu. 25:6-13 ✓

Nu. 18:20-21

4. It manifested itself in improper marriages: "married daughters of a strange god."
 - a) Priests were neglectful about necessary warnings on improper marriages.
 - b) These marriages defile.

Lev. 21:14-15

Neh. 13:29

- c) Not to be joined with one who worships a strange God.

B. How will God react?

v-12 "The Lord will cut off the man that"

1. Master & Scholar
 - a) Perhaps a military phrase derived from the challenge of a sentinel and the answer thereto.
 - b) He that watches & answers (Priest the master, people scholars who answer call of the Lord.)

- c) Answer & watcher--Watcher inspects so that nothing can go wrong. "Answer" cried out when alarmed.
- c) Master = Teacher = watches
Scholar = Follows = guards our scholars.

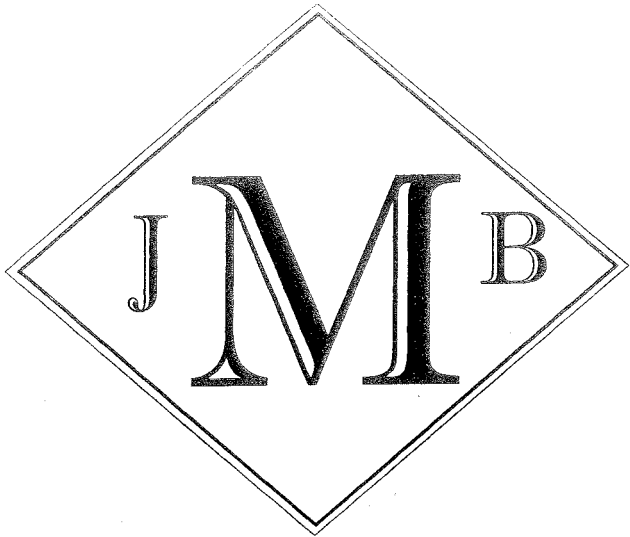
2. Labor so that you will be acceptable before God.

3. Their impenitence caused God to refuse their offering.

v-13 "This have ye done again"

- a) Tears can't justify.
- b) No offering can help the impenitent sinner.

Heritage - 8/15/04



OUR REPEATED WORD

Malachi 2:1-11

I. One would think Malachi has said all he wanted to say about wayard people--but he drives home his point by a repeated word.

- A. He has used threats.
- B. He has used questions.
- C. Now he uses a word which should break their hearts--even more than "do you love me?"
- D. The word is Hesed (it's one of passionate loyalty).

II. It comes with repetition. Note:

Malachi 2:4, 5, 8, 10, 14.

- A. As we read this please check it in your mind.
- B. Why is "covenant" so important?
- C. It means "to ~~find~~ **BIND**'

III. Origin of its display.

Genesis 15:9-12

- A. Sealed by walking between two halves of the animal.
 - 1. Sealed by blood.
 - 2. I'll die for my word.
 - 3. So shall it come to me if I violate this covenant.
 - 4. Sacred--God and man.

B. Re-enacted.

Jeremiah 34:18-20

C. Have we not a covenant made in baptism?

(Faithful unto death).

IV. Review what was said.

A. Men lose their respect for God.

1. No longed passionate loyalty.

2. Swore to be loyal under every circumstance.

3. Loyal to each other against all attacks, physical or verbal.

4. Support each other even to the point of losing life.

5. Think the best of each other come what may.

B. Jonathan and David.

C. God's hesed is everlasting.

D. God was persistently trustworthy.

E. "I Am" in covenant with God.

V. They broke three covenants.

A. Levi 1-9

B. Fathers 10-12

C. Wife 13-16

VI. God wants to share His glory with us.

A. Glory= heavy weighted, solid.

Exodus 40:34 -28

John 1:14 *Word has dwelt among us*

John 17:1-5

1 John 3:2

B. He wants to make us real.

VII. Consequently:

A. Why would priest deliberately lead us to disobey God?

B. Or to worship in a cheap, careless manner?

C. The priests themselves were not sincere.

D. Sick animals would die anyway--so give it to God!

E. It was a job, not a ministry.

F. We must do the will of God from the heart.

Eph. 6:6

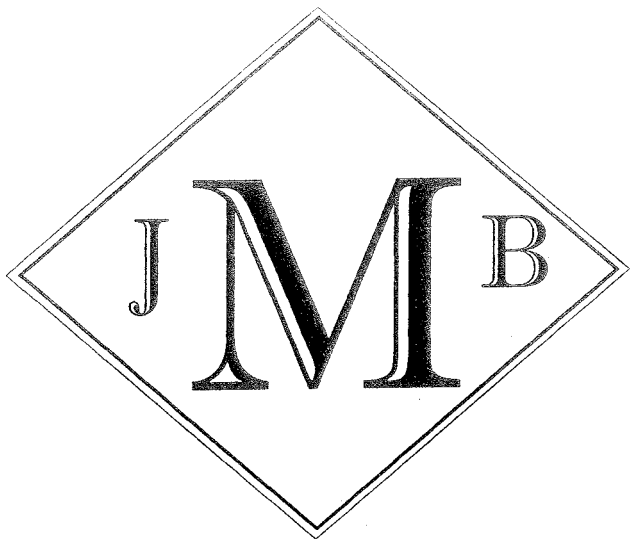
G. Privilege to be a priest--to teach others Word of God.

H. Heart not right.

Ezek. 44:23

I. Ministry vs. Ritual

12/3 Riverwood & Brentwood Hills LBC at the
21st Century Christian
Neely's Bend - 12/7/03



KETTLE OF MEMORIES

- I. I want you to envision this: *Mal. 2:74-15*
- A. Black kettle with a paddle to stir.
 - B. Small fire under it for warmth and water agitation.
 - C. Words of memory printed on an improvised bark that bobs around in that water.
 - D. Each as it floats by brings a message to our hearts that warms and uplifts.
 - E. All of them came from Malachi-- messenger of God.

II. Bobbing words from Malachi as we stir the pot. Here are some:

- A. God and His witness.
 1. When I entered marriage there were 3 of us: Bride, me, God.
 2. Vows will be made, promises extended, rings placed upon fingers.
 - a) Costly materials--"yes sir, *4th finger* near heart shure is."
 - b) Fake it.
 - c) Simultaneous.
- B. Bride of your youth.
 1. Most demanding decisions made in youth: Christian, marriage, occupation.
 2. Pure hearts are joined.
 3. One takes your name and can take you closer to glory.
 4. No contract so lasting, secondly only to being a Christian.

C. Covenant

1. Solid contract.
2. God will keep his promise, will you?
3. Earlier speaks of covering altar with tears to no avail.

D. Companion

1. God, when he made the first woman...made her not of the head of Adam, for she should not climb to great lordship;...also certes, God made not woman of the foot of Adam, for she should not be holden too low; for she can not patiently suffer; but God made woman of the rib of Adam, for woman should be fellow unto man. CHAUCER, "The Persones Tale," Sec. 79.

To see her is to love her
 And love but her for ever;
 For Nature made her what she is,
 And never made another!

BURNS, "Bonie Leslie"

Her loveliness, so absolute she seems
 And in herself complete, so well
 to know

Her own, that what she wills
 to do or say,
 Seems wisest, virtuouslest,
 discreetest, best.

MILTON, "Paradise Lost"

I never expected to see the day
when the girls would get sunburned
in the places they do now.

WILL B. ROGERS, "The Pathfinder"

2. Know her extremely well--favorite
flower--Pittsburgh!

3. The most precious possession
that ever comes to a man in this
world is a woman's heart.

J. G. Holland, "Lessons in Life:
Perverseness"

E. Treacherously

1. Will you betray a trust?
2. Will you cause God to witness
a default?

F. God made one.

1. Not a multiplicity of couples,
but only Adam and Eve.
2. Unity of home.
3. If multiple couples how would God
trace the Messiah?

G. Garments

1. Takes us back to Boaz & Ruth.
2. Intreat me not to leave.
3. Boaz mighty man of wealth, Ruth 2:1
4. Gleaner with handful on purpose.
5. Uncover feet.
6. Spread garment over me.

7. Neika--Good evening, Mr. Stephens (friendship); 2nd Good evening I was flirting.
8. Hold your engagement a thing sacred and pure.

H. Residue of the Spirit--Godly seed

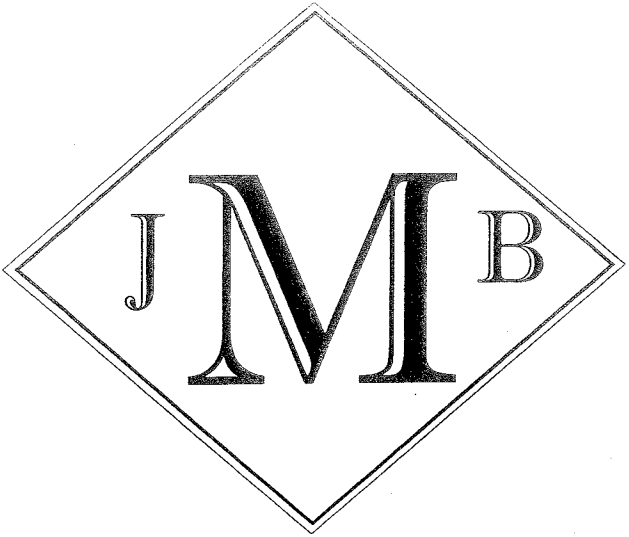
1. Only you 2 can produce.
2. Rear godly seed.

III. Thus blessings come to the church.

A. With no one can you team as you have with your wife--the product is a blessing to you.

B. Keep inviolate your vows.

Harpeth Hills - 2/15/04



GOD WITNESSES MARRIAGE

Malachi 2:14-17

I. If evil companions corrupt good morals; then improper morals & worship corrupt good marriages.

A. Let's see it.

God int. in our private lives

B. Text--Mal. 2:14-17 *Most abused verses*

II. God's a Marriage Witness *Marriage in OT.*

Mal. 2:14 "The Lord hath been witness bet."

A. It's God who signs the license!

1. Not only does he see our marriages, he sees our sinful failures in them.
2. God is served by fulfilling family obligations.
3. No marriage should be consummated God cannot bless.
4. Bear & forbear in family matters.
5. When each lives for the other all goes well. *Represents Power for Today*
6. God chief witness at our weddings.
7. He considers the castoff a breach of promise. *Remarriage Sale Clipp*

*Gen 31:49-50
Aizpoh*

B. Keep the Wife of Your Youth

1. In youth affection at its strongest.
2. They kept wives past their youth then swapped them off for other one.

It's 1:00 AM where've been

D. Dealt Treacherously

Remarriage vs. remarriage

1. We degrade into carnality when spirituality & truth is gone.
2. Way of sin is downhill--one violation is inlet to another.
3. Divorced legitimate wives & married heathen women.

Pest Control Service

Clippings of Marriage

4. Divorced wives came to temple weeping.

v-12 "Covering the altar of the Lord with"

5. God saw the tears of the oppressed not the sacrifice of the oppressor.

6. Women prayed false worship not accepted--who prays against us today?

II. God's View of Marriage

A. Wife is Companion

1. Companion--not slave, not inferior.

2. Equal.

3. We should enjoy no company like that of our wives.

4. It's an oath for life--do not trifle.

5. How can man of conscience divorce his companion!

B. Wife is Your Covenant - *By Solemn Covenant*

1. Marriage is the covenant of God.

Prov. 2:17 *Forget cov. of her God*

2. Cleave indissolvably. - *unbreakable*

3. Do not break covenant. *God had enuf breath of life left to make*

C. Why One Original Pair? - *another Eve - but just one*

1. One Adam & Eve in union--the example for all time.

2. Made 1 pair from whom all the rest proceed. *Two in - no men 2 Masters*

D. Sought Godly Seed

1. Can't have false marriages and leave holy posterity.

2. Plan for pious offsprings.

3. Children are the property of 1 man and 1 woman.

4. Abraham's actions not passion--as was Jacob's--but to obtain godly seed.

5. Live so your seed is a holy one.

E. God Hates Divorce - Continuity - I am

Deut. 12:31 *Burnt spots in fire*

16:22 *Images*

Prov. 6:16-19 *6. Proud look, lying tongue, hands blood*

8:13 *Evil, Pride, Arrog. mouth, heart devise wicked im.*

Isa. 61:8 *Robbery for burnt ovs. feet mangled, witness*

Jer. 44:4 *Idolstry* *Send away & divorced*

1. Equates with violence. *cover up*

2. Garment seeks to cover it--could garment be his reputation?

3. Usually every family is the innocent party. *All the time they were*

III. Consequences of All This. *divorcing they were*

A. Wearied the Lord. *still splintering blood on altar*

New pericope

1. God grows weary of man seeking to justify his own wicked practices.

2. God does not get tired supporting the universe but our words weary him. *Put his patience to the test*

3. Skepticism & discontent make him tired. *Also DISOBEDIENCE*

B. Falsely said everyone who does evil is good and that the Lord delights in them.

1. Is prosperity of heathen a sign of God's pleasure?

2. Confuse moral distinctions.

Isa. 5:20

Not a fact of history but a continuing event

3. Evil is subtle:

- The denial of
scripture
retaliation
no longer
functioned*
- We want to do wrong & begin to wish it were not wrong.
 - Next we doubt it is wrong.
 - Next wrong only on certain circumstances.
 - Finally not wrong at all.

4. We face family, social, sectarian, personal delusions.

5. We are lost when we lose our sensitivity to good.

6. God hears all our words & some are most offensive to Him.

7. Satan is pleased when we think everyone who does evil is good in God's sight.

8. He loathes those who make evil appear good.

C. Where is the God of Judgement?

1. He is Holy. —————

Hab. 1:13

Ps. 5:4

2. Yet since vice is triumphant and virtue oppressed we think God's withdrawn.

3. We want him to put an end to these things and when He doesn't we question Him.

4. Wicked are blessed. There is no justice. Righteousness is a waste of time.

5.

5. Finally, God won't punish us--He does not care!
6. We grow as skeptical about the 2nd coming of Christ.

Central - Sparta, TN - 10/6/92

Harding Lectureship - 9/29/93

No. Jackson, Jackson, TN - 10/3/93

Beville Rd., Daytona Beach, FL - 2/1/94

Smithville. TN 5/15/94

Savannah, TN - 5/22/94

Myrtle Beach, SC - 7/10/94

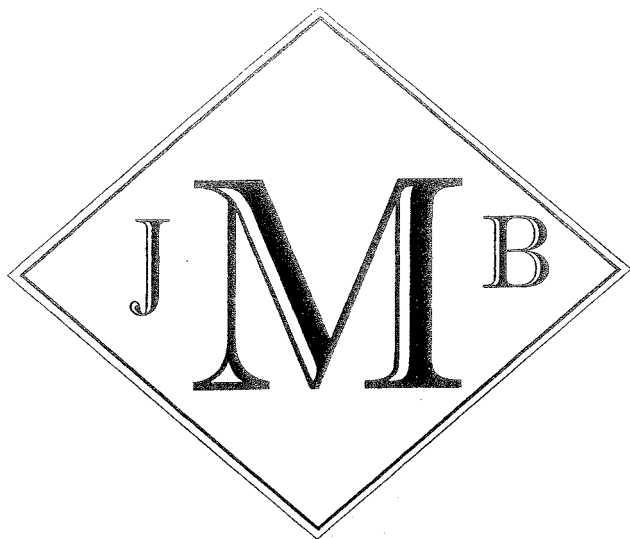
Heritage - 8/22/04

Morality, or convenience?

Observes William Frey (*dean of Trinity Episcopal School for Ministry, Ambler, Pa.*) "Many of us believe the sexual revolution has run its course, leaving in its wake thousands of broken marriages, a sharp rise in teenage pregnancies, millions of convenience-motivated abortions, a multibillion-dollar pornography industry and a mushrooming AIDS epidemic. What could be better news than the proclamation that there is a better way?"

... But as the ~~pressures and practices~~ *adultery* of modern society continue to evolve, issues of right and wrong in sex, that most intricate aspect of human existence, are likely to become even more perplexing to most Americans. And now churches that once served as sources of clear moral guidance are likewise grappling uncertainly with these issues as they try to decide whether their sexual standards will derive from biblical tradition or the fluid folkways of modernity.

Barbara Dolane, Joseph Kane, Leslie Whitaker; "What Does God Really Think About Sex?," Time



A LITTLE BOOK WITH BIG PROBLEMS

Mal. 2:17-

- I. When have we held so small a record with so big list of charges.
 - A. The people are argumentative.
 - B. They answer God with a question.
 - C. They are guilty of many things, yet see no evidence of repentance and correction.
 - D. They currently deal with family quarrels and divorce.
 - E. They marry strange women- DeHoff has in his commentary when a child of God marries a daughter of Satan he is sure to have trouble with his father-in-law.
 - F. They accuse God of blindness and lack of nerve to deal with the evils of His time.
 - G. They make no effort to return to His way.

II. We start today's lesson with the wrong of unfaithful marriage relations.

Read Mal. 2:15-16

- A. Note words.
 1. Residue of spirit.
 2. Made just one.
 3. Desire godly seed.
 4. Treacherously.
 5. Wife of youth.

6. Hates putting away--intent one woman, one man, one God for life.
7. Cover violence with garment.

Ruth 3:5-11

B. More on marriage (v-16).

1. One God, one man, one woman for life.
2. One Father, one Creator should insure unity plus ability to see bloodline.
3. God expects loyalty of both parties.
4. God hates putting away--society loves it. Brittany Spears drunk marries one night--annuls it.
5. Covers violence with his garment (AV).
Covers garment with violence (ASV).
Violence covers his garments (Deane).
Iniquity shall cover his garments (Douay).
Omitted completely - Moffett
6. Way of proposal--as engagement ring is to us.
7. Unhappy consequences follows abusol of marriage holy code.
8. Scrutinize your motive.
9. Read Ruth 3:5-11

10. If you are of God's family how can you deal treacherously with wife of thy youth?

III. Accusations against God.

- A. Man is at his lowest when he argues with God.
- B. Only thing worse is to accuse God of injustice.

Mal. 2:17 - "Ye have wearied the Lord with your words."

1. God holds the universe in place without weariness.
 2. But He gets tired of our words?
 3. Don't some people wear you out?
- C. To the accusation they answer, "Wherein have we? Show me? You bring a false accusation."
1. Root of trouble they did not fear, reverence God.
 2. Accuse God of indifference and tolerate evil.
- D. Accuse God of moral confusion:
 "Every one that doeth evil is good in the sight of the Lord." Furthermore "He delights in them" and finally a don't care attitude. "Where is the God of Judgment." God does not care! No moral basis with Him.

1. True worship and social justice goes hand in hand.
2. God's order: Love God, Love Fellowman (neighbor as thyself).
3. God never said "all who do evil are good."
4. God has not changed one thing - He is the God of "social justice."

Deut. 4:25 Images

Deut. 6:18 Seek to do right.

Deut. 12:28 Carefully heed--do good and right.

5. He does not delight in evil.

Isa. 30:18 God of Justice

6. He is displeased with injustice.
7. It's an evil heart that questions the Justice of God.
8. People grew cynical and stopped taking right and wrong seriously.
9. Religion had become a shell of meaningless ritualism.
10. God does not take their accusations lightly.
11. No way to make evil look good.
12. As is God so are his priests as we turn many from iniquity.
13. Evil is subtle.
 - a. We want to do wrong and begin to wish it were right.
 - b. Then we doubt if it is wrong.

c. Then it's wrong only on certain conditions and circumstances.

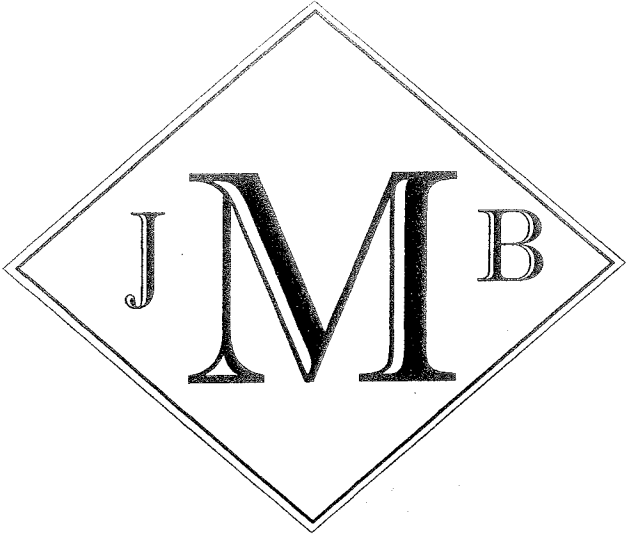
d. Finally it isn't wrong at all.

14. Our duty remains.

Amos 5:14-15

Neely's Bend - 1/25/04

Heritage - 8/15/04



MY MESSENGER COMES!

Mal. 3:1

- I. The prophet reports the coming of a special messenger.
 - A. Malachi means messenger, but he is not talking about himself.
 - B. This one is in a class all by himself.
 - C. Most believe he speaks of John the Baptist, of who Jesus said not greater--except member of the church (this is a great demonstration of how important the church is to God!).
 - D. These people have been very indifferent to the judgment of God so God will vindicate it all by sending John.
 - E. About John:

Matt. 3:1-4
11:10-11

Luke 1:76-77

John 1:23 19-25

Isa. 40:3-5

- F. People like time of Amos 5:13:26
- G. Remember, whatever these people did, God had to preserve them until Jesus came--could see the bloodline.
 1. We see the continuity of fleshly Israel, but that does not mean a perpetual enjoyment of God.

2. God's unwillingness to destroy Israel does not mean his approval of them.
3. God's chosen people of today are the Jews and Gentiles who have been baptized into Christ and live out his will. (Coffman)
4. Yet God was not going to accept a challenge of his reputation and allow it to go unanswered.
5. He would clean, not destroy.

II. There are many who see this as Jesus' first coming.

A. Whoever:

1. God's messenger.
2. Heaven sent.
3. Prepares the way.
4. Suddenly comes to His temple.
5. Coming promised by God.

B. It will be a terrible day of refining.

Figures used:

1. Prepare - to clear the way.
2. Called the Lord (Master).
3. "Delight" - irony here.
4. One with God.
5. Foes vanquished.

C. Figures of Refiner! Fire (points to cleansing).

1. Smelter - purify silver.
2. Only pure can stand.

3. Dross perishes--man can't keep things clean.
4. Silver is worth refining--burns out dross.
5. Heat silver until can see own image reflected.
6. Silver in pure state brightest of all metals.
7. Purity comes with trials of fire.

D. Fullers Soap.

1. Launderer's soap.
2. Cleanses the polluted.
3. Note he sits--sure the job is done.
4. Fire for heavy sinners, soap for light.
5. Walk and pound clothes.
6. Unchangeable hatred of sin.
7. Lose nothing but our dross and dirt.

E. What reception have you given Christ since His first coming?

F. We like (v-4) to think of the good old days.

III. The Judgment of God and the Social Injustices.

A. When they correct all this God will accept their offerings.

1. Be pleasant to the Lord.

2. Re-enactment of days gone by.
3. When things are right God accepts the sacrifice. We are to please Him - not ourselves.

B. God will come near in judgment and be swift about it.

1. Those who feel his anger are named.
2. First the sorcerers. First of groups.

Exo. 7:11 *Phar called 9- dip*
 Deut. 18:10 *12*
 Jer. 27:9-10 *3*
 Exo. 22:18 *16 24 25 5*

- a) Always opposes the occult.
- b) Social injustice He opposes.
- c) Religious deceptions.

3. The adulterers.

Ezek. 22:9-11 *neighbors wife 6*

- a) Cesspool of sexual crimes.
- b) God never changes his views.
- c) Immorality in the family.

Exo. 20:14

4. False swearers.

Jer. 5:2 *Face hard as steel 7*
 7:9-10 *7*

Lev. ~~9:13~~

- a) They will oppress the helpless.
- b) If your word is no good, you aren't either.

5. Oppress the hireling in his wages.

Lev. 19:13 *wages to all*James 5:4 *10*

a) Cheat out of his wages.

b) Borrow \$1.00 - pay back \$1.25.

6. The widows and orphans.

Exo. 22:22-24 *5* *11 Deut 22:22-24*

7. The sojourners.

Deut. 27:19 *caused be he prevent 13*

Deut. 24:17-18

a) These folk fear not God.

b) Our faith in God owes something for us socially.

C. I am the Lord, I change not.

1. Never alters views.

2. He is not indifferent to these things.

3. View of sin remains the same-- not us tho!

4. However long judgment is delayed, it will be carried out.

5. His unchangeableness grounds for our hope.

Ps. 37:38-40

6. Man changes - not God! See any changes in us?

7. God ever hates sin, loves holiness.

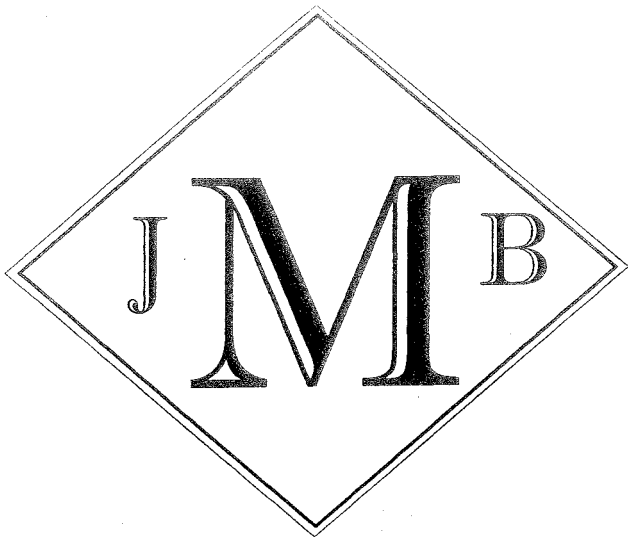
Heb. 7:22

Neely's Bend - 2/1/04 (Part I)

Neely's Bend 2-8-04

Heritage - 8/29/04 (Part I)

Heritage - 9/5/04 (Part II)



AS IN THE DAYS OF OLD

Malachi 3:1-4

I. Most of us have fond memories of the "days of old."

A. Dad would tell me tales about when he was a boy.

B. All older folk look back on the favorable yesteryear.

C. Even in religion we seek to restore that which used to be.

II. God uses this figure with Malachi.

A. Things got pretty bad.

1. Form was rampant.

2. Brought tithes but not the whole tithe.

3. Constant habit of talking back to God.

4. Speech reflected the waywardness that had engulfed them.

B. Now there was a chance to change-- God was not through with them.

C. Their day of opportunity was coming.

III. Malachi Embraces John & Jesus.

A. I send my Preparatory Messenger.

Angel?
Humans?
Malachi?
John?

1. Many enterprises fail because it was not effectively prepared for.

2. This would be in the hands of God.

3. Messenger a play on Malachi's name --means messenger.

B. Jesus Comes -

1. Suddenly, *unexpectedly*

2. To the temple

3. Messenger of the Covenant.

No one can grasp scope of it.

2.

4. I (Father) send, He (Son) comes.

5. God came in human flesh.

Rev. 17:14

6. Our surety.

Heb. 7:22

Heb. 8:6

C. Who may abide the day of His coming.

1. Who stand when He appears.

2. Implied none can withstand his coming.

3. Blends 1st & 2nd coming of Jesus.

4. What reception have you given Christ since his 1st coming?

5. What preparation are you making for his second?

III. He is like the Refiner's Fire & the Fuller's Soap.

A. Refiner's Fire - *He will do it expertly starts c the Priests*

1. Thorough--fire & soap.

2. Fire burns out corrupt.

3. 2 cleaners--mild & harsh.

4. Impurities burned out from ore.

5. Heat silver til he can see his own image reflected with a clarity to which nothing more be added.

B. Fuller's Soap

1. Evil needs to be cleansed by soap and pounding.

2. Man keeps nothing clean very long.

3. Walk on and pound clothes.

4. Cleanse the stain.

5. Lose nothing but our dross & our dirt.

C. Purify & Purge

1. He'll accurately judge every man & he has the authority to do this.
2. Stepping stone or stumbling block?

Isa. 8:14

3. As Gold & Silver
 - a) Compliment to speak of God's folk as silver & gold--worth refining.
 - b) Silver in its pure state is the brightest of metals.
 - c) Doesn't cast away the metal because of its dross but seeks to cast the dross from the metal.
 - d) Purification--a great aim of the gospel.
 - e) Purity can be accomplished by the trial of fire.

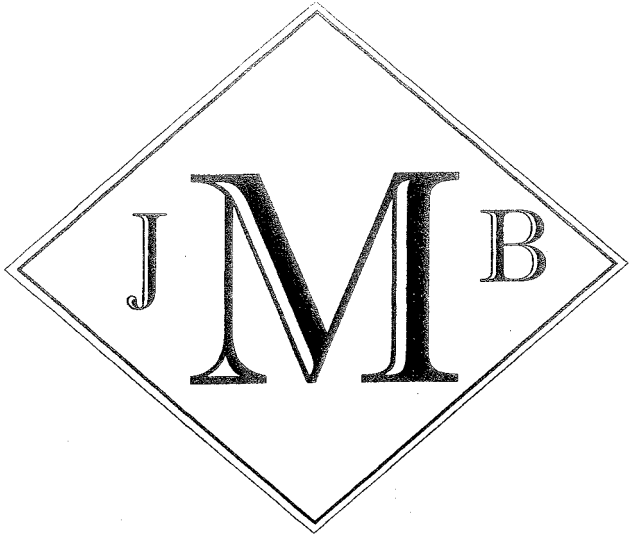
IV. The New Offering *Result of purifying they will*A. To the Lord in Righteousness. *of for*

1. He's been watching. *preper sec.*
2. He "sits"--makes certain the reformation is done. *Be in compliance*
3. Refiner sits & watches molten metal until he sees his face in the mass.
4. Sits with patience and unflinching justice.
5. Now he's ready to receive--since he does not delight in evil, He does in "offerings of righteousness."

B. Pleasant as in days of old.

1. Pleasant = sweet.
2. Value of offering lies in how much it pleases God.

3. Test of every offering--does it please God!
4. As once it was so, shall it return "as in the former years."



THE QUADRUPLE CHALLENGE

Malachi 3:7-12

- I. Seldom in one paragraph does the Lord offer so many challenges.
- Return Unto Me.
 - Bring All You Are Supposed To.
 - Prove Me.
 - See if I will bless you greater than all your ability to retain.
 - All of this is found in our text.
 - Shall we see how big our faith is?

- II. The Stage is Set *New Planet #1*
- In the days of your fathers you went away.
 - You live as your fathers did & that brought on the Babylonian captivity.
 - We are slow to learn.
 - You went away from his ordinances and have not kept them.
 - Will you stay in this rebellion?

III. The Challenges

- #1--Return unto me.
 - Man must cooperate with God's grace.
 - Honestly we must see ourselves & our needs.
 - Turning to God is turning from evil. *People had no sense of sin*
 - It is a Divine invitation.
 - He promises to return unto them.
 - He is ready to receive them.
 - Thus they are charged with apostasy.

Jer. 2: ~~13~~ *11-13* *Deed*

- Note these blessings are con-
ditional. *Note*

9. Of course, they ask "wherein?"

B. One evidence of apostasy was their robbery. *God not served c Partial service*

Continually

1. The minute He states his charge they ask "wherein?" *Trip up, supplant*

2. Robbing God
a) Defraud, *Seize, plunder, De fraud*

Prov. 22:23

b) Dishonest *Robbed God, not man*

c) Those who offer unfit sacrifices were called cheats; those who held back "robbers."

Tithes
Due
God

3. How do you feel about being robbed?

*1st Fruits:
just as
they open,
not wait to
see type
of harvest*

At Trivilee Fountain, mother with babe in her arms, sitting on sidewalk crying in distress, picked the American's pocket who stooped to help.

4. Rather be robbed or give it away?

5. Fabled eagle robbed the altar, set fire to her nest with the burning coals that adhered to the stolen flesh she bore away.

C. Wherein?

1. Shows insensibility. *E BUCKS #3*

2. Always a rebuttal.

3. But God will answer question after question.

D. Robbed in Tithes & Offerings

1. Tithes included 1st fruits, annual half shekel, offering made for tabernacle, portions of sacrifice.

2. Hinted God had impoverished them so
→ had nothing to pay.

Offering = ~~Bea~~ Beyond required contribution sanctuaries

3. Offerings were portions of the sacrifice priests were permitted to use for food.

Most E. Challenge #2--Bring Ye all the Tithes

Whole nation did - no. do not make it right

1. All--God's not satisfied with a portion. *Don't treat compulsory as you see fit*
2. It must be a complete reversal.
3. If you minister in holy things your life must match your ceremony & profession.

Chambers built for storage

4. All tithes include what they ought to have brought & had not.

5. "No man ever yet lost by serving God with a whole heart, nor gained by serving Him with a half one." (FJB)

6. Meat in the storehouse. *Those who minister temple etc there*
 - a) Be food there.
 - b) Not super fluty.

F. Challenge #3--Prove Me Now *Test Me*

1. God pledges himself to his creatures.
2. Are we accepting God's dare.

Perform your duty & you will see my bounty

G. Challenge #4--"See if I will not open Windows & Pour Out" *Reins Showers*

1. Figure of an emptied vessel. *of blessings*
2. Bea Dodson poured it all on Winston Neil.
3. Picture of vessel completely emptied of its content.
4. Remember how rich is Heaven as it pours out on us.
5. What you give to the Lord never lessens your store.

Overflow until no more, Boundless, who limit lack of room

Obedience is rewarded

4.

6. God's gifts overflow man's capacity to receive. *Locust - he that eats*

7. God will rebuke the devourer.

God guards the decess

Land of good pleasure

Ezek 20:6

Flowers

mark honey

glory of all

lands

- a) Guard them from everything that injures before the gathering in.
- b) All that man does gives hope of labor's reward--He'll see that you are paid! *No grave childless" lit.*
- c) Every blossom will bear fruit.
- d) Nations will see that you are blessed. *Opposite of Ridicule*
- e) It will be a delightful land--promises the Lord of Hosts.

H. Will we accept the challenge?

Granny White 9/26/92

Isa 62:4 Beulah = The Married one

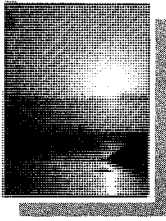
Central church, Sparta, TN 10/7/92

Heritage - 10/3/04

30000
6
50000

Faith

#1



THE UNSEEN

An Unseen Planet

Nine years before I was born scientists discovered the planet Pluto. 1930

Before anybody could see the "new" planet, Percival Lowell tried to convince his colleagues of its existence based on his calculations of unusual variations in the orbit of Neptune. For fifteen years they laughed at him. Then in 1930 they found it, right where Lowell said it would be.

I thought of this last week when I read the Associated Press report announcing that scientists have just discovered another planet. Not one in our solar system, but one which orbits a star near the center of the Milky Way galaxy.

Twelve times the mass of Earth, this latest planet is 20,000 to 30,000 light years away from us. A light year is a mere 5.9 trillion miles. 180,000 trillion

Like Pluto when Percival Lowell first discerned it, this new planet cannot be seen. Scientists verified its presence by measuring variations in the movements of Milky Way stars they can see.

Here is a phenomenon worth observing: scientists who are absolutely sure of the reality of something they cannot see.

I remember the brilliant young atheist who challenged me when I came as a guest lecturer to his high school class to present "The Christian View of the Universe." I presented the case for the reality of the unseen realm. He adamantly objected, insisting that only those things we can touch and measure and see are real.

Some years ago I was present when the head of the Psychology Department at Arizona State University spoke to a roomful of preachers. True to the tenets of pure behavioral psychology, this highly educated man totally discounted the spiritual components of personality. Only what we can observe and quantify deserves our attention, he asserted, invoking the mantle of "true" science.

Now we have scientists daring to ask us to believe that umpteen trillion miles out there in space, lost in a blackness too murky for our finest telescopes to penetrate, is a whole planet. It's unseen and unseeable, mind you. But it's there.

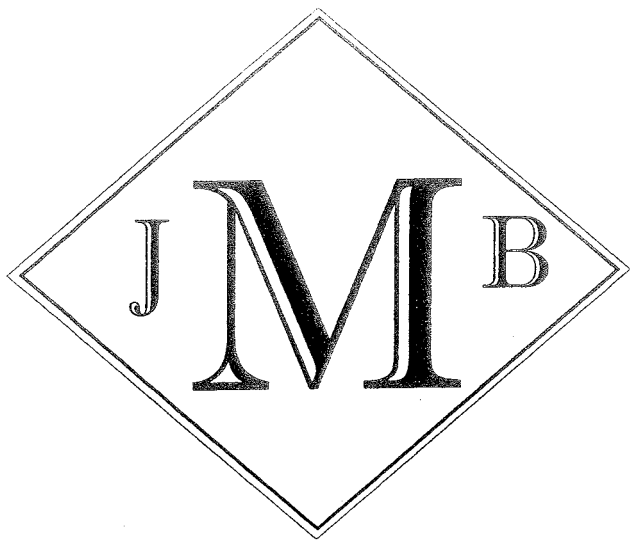
The amazing thing is that I believe them. I wonder if they can muster as much faith when we tell them about our unseeable God. CA

#2
ALFRED LUNT almost invariably plays to packed houses, but he is not comfortable unless there are standees. Some years back, he was appearing on Broadway in a Theatre Guild production, and Russel Crouse, then publicity man for the Guild, saw a few empty seats.

Afraid that Lunt would be upset, he remembered that there was a dummy around—a prop from a previous show.

Crouse dressed the dummy and stood him up in the back of the house. After the performance, Lunt told Crouse, "There was one standee who was so interested in the play that he hardly moved during the entire performance. Most gratifying."

— Maurice Zolotow, *Stagestruck: The Romance of Alfred Lunt and Lynn Fontanne* (Harcourt, Brace & World)



TODAY I MEDDLE-HOW MUCH DO YOU GIVE?

Mal. 3:7-12

- I. Before we get to a servant of God and his financial relationship to our Lord, note how God prefers it with a call to repentance.

Mal. 3:7-

- A. As we like to say via comparison "the good ole days."
 1. Were they real?
 2. Were they superior?
- B. Note they'd turned aside from the ordinances.
 1. Obedience is ever important.
 2. First call--hear the Word.
 3. Accused of disobedience--"gone away."
 4. Note "mine" ordinances.
 5. See word "kept."
- C. God offers a truce--return to me--I'll return to you.
 1. Yet they argue the point.
 2. Unger calls it an impious insinuation.
 3. They impunge God's righteousness.
 4. Weirs be asked, rated 1 to 10 how do you long for the day of the Lord?

5. They considered themselves righteous and thus no need to return.
6. About face--turn to me from end.
7. They are charged with apostacy.
 - a. Divine invitation to return.
 - b. God's ready to receive.
8. They live as their fathers did and brought on Babylonia's captivity.
9. No man ever yet lost by serving God with a whole heart, nor gained by serving him with a half one (F.B.J.).

II. All this a good way to lead into the subject of our financial situation with God.

V-8 "Will a man rob God?"

A. Pretty serious change.

1. Rob - defraud.
2. Accused of stealing!
3. Seems via other generations to be a pattern of departure.
4. Yet they claim innocency--react as if God slandered them.
5. Self-righteousness personified.
6. Man the creature, robs the created.
7. Note not giving to God what is rightfully His is stealing!

B. Shocked and answered "wherein have we robbed thee?"

1. Did they break into temple treasurer?
2. Did they waylay the priest that carried the offering?
3. Did they assault heaven with robbery purposes?

C. They robbed by not bringing their tithe.

1. Had many laws about times to give one-tenth.

Numbers 18:26-28 *Levites - 10%*

Deuteronomy 12:17-18 *may not eat tithes*

Proverbs 22:23 *Rob not poor*

2. Yet they failed and were cursed with a curse. The curse:
 - a. Finally face God in the matter, not IRS.
 - b. Give whole - not part.
 - c. No man ever yet lost by serving God with a whole heart, nor gained by serving him with a half one.
3. But how are we to give?
 - a. Not under law fall from grace.
 - b. But is NT cheaper than OT?
 - c. Words that tell us.
 - 1) Willingly
 - 2) Spontaneously
 - 3) Liberally
 - 4) Joyfully

- 5) Proportionately
- 6) Simplicity
- 7) Freely

d. Questions:

- 1) How do you feel about being robbed?
- 2) Do you see not giving as apostasy? Dishonesty? Insensibility? Robbery?

Jer. 2:13 *As steve hold no water*

- 3) Has what you've given ever lessened your store?
- 4) Those who offer unfit sacrifice are cheats! Those who fail to give are robbers.
- 5) Are we to give other than local church where we are members?
- 6) Can we make legal requirements?
- 7) Do we spend more for movies, smokes, soft drinks, barbers?
- 8) Do you agree: giving involves one's self before one's stuff?

2 Cor. 9:6-12 *Sew sparingly*

B. God asks that he be tried.

V-10 "Bring ye all (the while) tithe.

1. Storehouse

a. Special place to store tithe.

b) Known as little circle for storing.

~~1 Chron. 26:20~~

2. Test - try.

2 Kings 9:708

Isaiah 62:1-4 *Blessing on Pt.*

Mark 10:29-30 *No man that let house*

~~2 Cor. 9:7-8~~

3. Downpouring-pour out-empty!

a) Vessel turned upside down.

b) Given back all stolen from him.

c) Can't gain factor via broken, burned out, faulty.

d) Gifts overflow man's ability to receive.

4. Flood gala.

~~Gen. 7:11~~

~~Neh. 10:28~~

5. Become delightful land.

Neely's Bend - 3/7/04

SCRIPTURE READINGS 2/22/04

Malachi 3:7-10

Numbers 18:25-28

Proverbs 22:22-23

Jeremiah 2:13

2 Corinthians 9:6-12

WHEN I GIVE

WHEN I GIVE NOTHING:

I cast a vote to close the church.

I take a "free ride" on the gifts and services of others.

WHEN I GIVE LESS THAN LAST YEAR:

I have experienced a decrease in income - or -

I have changed my priorities - or -

I question the need for the work the church is doing.

WHEN I GIVE LESS THAN ONE-TENTH OF MY INCOME:

I do less than what was required of the
poorest of the Jews.

WHEN I GIVE GRUDGINGLY:

I find no joy in my giving.

I am a disappointment to the Lord, for God loves
a cheerful giver.

WHEN I REFUSE TO PURPOSE IN ADVANCE:

I fail to follow God's plan. (2 Cor. 9:7)

I make it difficult for the elders to make plans
for the year.

WHEN I GIVE WEEKLY:

I help fulfill the planned programs of the church.

I make it much easier for myself by avoiding the
accumulation of my stewardship obligation.

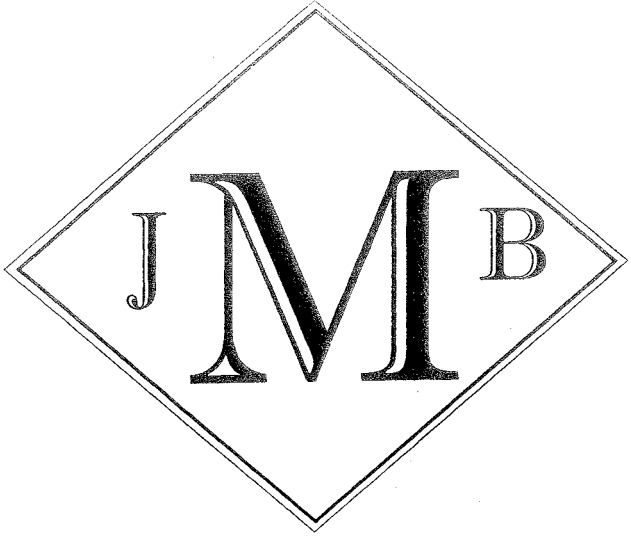
I find joy and satisfaction in my giving.

I follow the God-given plan (1 Cor. 16:2)

WHEN I GIVE PROPORTIONATELY:

I shall be blessed in my giving and will be enriched
in every way (2 Cor. 9:11)

I shall increase my gifts as my income increases.



THE AMAZING PATIENCE OF GOD

Mal. 3:13-15

- I. We are warned about taking the name of God in vain.
 - A. Do we not hold the same respect for our parents?
 1. I said to a Carl, "Forgive me for saying something about your mother," and he interrupted saying, "please say all you can against her--I despise her anyhow and delight in hearing what I can against her."
 2. Do you respect those that disregard parents?
Presidents? Elders?
Earthly bosses?
 3. No mortal is perfect, but it is no blessing to hear those we should respect cursed.
 - B. Surely it is highly ugly and mean to speak evil of our Lord--yet this is what this lesson is about.
 - C. Coupled with this is why God does not cause the earth, as with Korah, to open up and swallow us.
 - D. Let's renew our reverence for God, age, parents, supervisors is secular and sacred.

II. God hears what we say--favorably or disrespectfully--(that's the reason cursing is a sin!)

v-13 "Your words have been stout against me, saith the Lord. Yet ye say, What have we spoken so much against thee?"

A. Ungodly spoke harsh words against God.

1. God hears all we say.
2. Spoke to one another in little groups.
3. They do not deny they did it.
4. I've never liked the St. Peter at the gate jokes.
5. We can deny, but God remembers the hard speeches.
6. Stout- strong, obdurate, arrogant
7. Harsh same words describe Pharaoh's heart.

Ex. 7:22 "And Pharaoh's heart was hardened, neither did he hearken unto them; as the Lord had said."

B. Of course they have a rebuttal:
"What have we spoken against thee?"

1. Refuse to accept the correction.
2. Claim their innocence.
3. Won't repent if we think we have no sin.
4. Forgot God hears all we say.

III. God cites their words.

A. We keep all manner of personal records.

1. Document the conversations.
2. Preserve the incidents for protection.
3. Avoid thus lawsuits.

B. They said, "It is vain to serve God and (2) what profit is it that we have kept his ordinance and (3) that we have walked mournfully before the Lord of hosts."

1. If ever words came back to meet the accused these had it.
2. Not through with the quotes for v-15 records more, but let's just see these documentations.
3. Vain to serve God.
 - a. Via secular expectations we are disappointed and fault God.
 - b. World's judgment--it does not pay to serve God.
 - c. Expect religion to pay big dividends.
 - d. Futile to serve God since 1) the righteous are not rewarded 2) the wicked are not punished.
 - e. Vain - without substance.
 - f. Futile - technical expression of weavers noting the portion of the thread that is cut off from the work.

- g. They question the worthiness of serving God.
- h. Since they turn to their usual denial of any charge, God spells it out for them.
- i. They got tired of serving God since it brought no material prospects.
- j. Played religion for their own gain.

C. Next, what profit is it that we have kept his ordinance?

- 1. Oft repeated complaint.

Zeph. 1:12

Job 22:15-17

Ps. 73:1-9

Isa. 58:3

- 2. Talk to one another about what do we get out of religion.
- 3. No force in the world so socializing as religion.
- 4. Comfort to speak to one another about our experiences.
- 5. Ordinances--what he requires to be kept, observed.
- 6. Rewards--sarcastically thoughts.

D. We have walked mournfully before the Lord of hosts.

- 1. Apparel worn as if fasting and mourning for sin.
- 2. Walked in black.

3. Remember, He asked to be served with gladness.
4. Contributed merit to outward forms.
5. Mournful garb.
6. No inward evidence of the outward show of repentance.

IV. Comes the final charge - v.15.

A. We call the proud happy.

1. Proud men don't need and none resist.
2. Proud - the presumptuous sinner.
3. Solitariness is happiness.
4. We see the wicked prosperous.

Ps. 73:16-17

B. They that work wickedness are set up.

1. Set up a metaphor from architecture.
2. God sets the solitary in families.
3. That which is built up.
4. This life is not the only answer-- there is more to come.

C. Those that tempt God are delivered.

1. What they feared of the Lord is not recorded.
2. But God will extend His vengeance.
3. Two classes of folk--wheat and chaff.

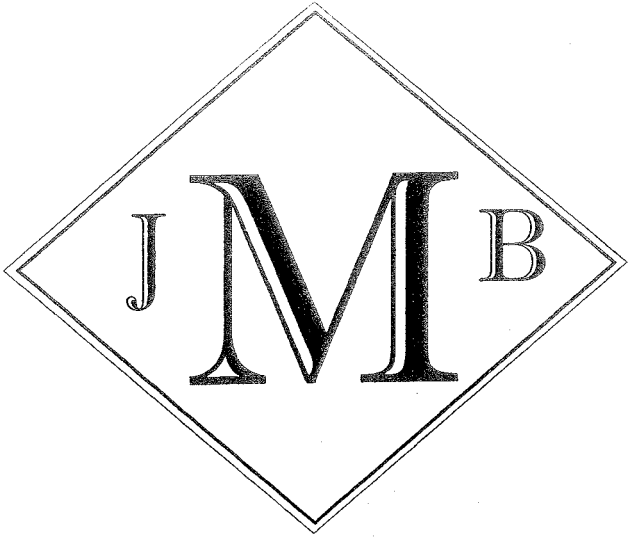
4. It makes sense to serve God then
it looks like the majority does not.

Matt. 7:24-27

Matt. 7:21

Neely's Bend - 3/14/04

Heritage - 10/17/04



IN THE BOOK OF REMEMBRANCE

Mal. 3:16

- I. It's so easy to forget.
- II. It's disheartening to be forgotten.
(You remember me don't you?)
- III. It's inspiring to be remembered.
 - A. For service sake.
 - B. But especially by God.
- IV. In Malachi's words he told of the Remnant Remembered.
 - A. It's the good remembrance tho certainly there is the bad!

Mal. 3:5

1. Socerers
2. Adulterers
3. False swearers--Perjurers
4. Oppressors of hirelings--defraud laborers of wages - Cashier #0.
5. Widow
6. Fatherless--Graham card #1.
7. Stranger from his rights--aliens of Justice--Fish story #2.
8. Fear not the Lord.
9. Men sin & think since not brought to immediate judgement they won't be!
"Where is the God of Judgement?"
(Mal. 2:17)

B. May be certain!

3:6 "I am the Lord, I change not!"

(I didn't change--you did!)

C. There is a good remembrance but it requires not only the mercy of God but the obedience of man.

1. Fire & soap - cleanse!

2. Clean folk to temple (3:4).

V. The Remembered Men only stand for these positive as well as those things just cited, they omit.

A. Feared the Lord (v-16).

1. Reverence

2. Awe

3. Acknowledgement

4. Respect

a) Khrushchev & Christ card - #3

b) Kolf - Abandonment card - #4

c) Patrick Henry quote - #5

5. God always has his own--the 7,000.

6. Critics wrong; judgement & justice come!

B. Spoken often to one another, talked with each other (v-16).

1. Minds were filled with things of God.

2. Talked to one another about God & his love.

3. Geese--When the Saints Go Marching Out--Chuck & Anne Murphy.

a) Travel 70% faster in formation than alone--Unity.

Phil 2:2 "Same mind, same love, full accord--of 1 mind"

b) Share leadership--the inverted V the most buffeted position. (Some burn out)

c) Honk from behind to encourage.

(1) Honk vs squawk.

(2) Clip on why didn't speak up - #6.

d) Keep company with the fallen.

Gal. 6:2 "Bear ye one another's"

2 Cor. 1:3-4 "Blessed be God even..mercies-conf.

(1) Susie broke doll--helped her cry - #7

(2) Menninger clip - #8

(3) Reach the backslider.

(4) Time so precious - #9

7 yrs. in bathroom

6 yrs. eating

5 yrs. waiting in lines

4 yrs. cleaning house

3 yrs. preparing meals

2 yrs. returning D/A

phone calls

1 yr. looking for the misplaced.

8 mo. opening junk mail.

6 mo. sitting at red lights.

(Via Priority Management-Pittsburg) (29 yrs. above)

C. They believed God's promises.

v-16 & 17 (Read)

1. Book of remembrance

2. There is a rewarding hereafter.

3. All do not believe this.

a) Humanistic manifesto--#10.

b) John Dunphy - #11.

c) 270,000 children born today,
99 million new people this year
and 66 million of the 99 by
2000 will survive to 12 years.

*The central
purpose of
ea. individual's
life should be to
dilute the misery
in the world*

*Ch. signed
Occupant*

4. I believe I can be one of God's Jewels--treasured possession.
 - a) Son that serves (v-17)
 - b) Discerners between:
 - (1) Righteous & wicked
 - (2) Him that serves vs serves not.
 - c) Mott card
5. It pays to serve God faithfully.

Homewood - Birmingham, AL - 7/11/89

Owen Chapel - 7/23/89

Hilton Head, SC - 7/30/89

Bellwood, Murfreesboro, TN - 8/6/89

Cave-In-Rock, IL - 8/27/89

Shults-Lewis Children's Home, Valparaiso, IN - 9/9/89

Chr. Services of E. TX - Tyler, TX - 9/7/91

West End Keenagers - 9/9/91

West Sparta church, Sparta, TN - 9/10/91 (TAD)

Paragon Mills Teachers Apprec. Dinner - 9/13/91

Church Street, Lewisburg, TN (TAD) - 10/21/91

Neely's Bend - 3/21/04

Heritage - 10/24/04

THE PERSONNEL director of a large metropolitan bank was interviewing applicants for the job of cashier. He called the former employer of one of the applicants to check his references.

"We are thinking of hiring your former employee as a cashier," he said. "I wonder if you could tell me whether or not he is perfectly honest."

"Honest," the voice on the phone said. "I should say he is. He has been arrested nine times for embezzlement, and he was found 'not guilty' each time."

Evangelist Billy Graham in his book **WORLD AFLAME**, writes discerning yet serious words concerning America:

The immutable law of sowing and reaping has held sway. We are now the hapless possessors of moral depravity, and we seek in vain for a cure. The tares of indulgence have overgrown the wheat of moral restraint. Our homes have suffered. Divorce has grown to epidemic proportions. When the morals of a society are upset, the family is the first to suffer. The home is the basic unit of our society, and a nation is only as strong as her homes. The breaking up of a home does not often make headlines, but it eats like termites at the structure of the nation.

As a result of the mounting divorces, separations, and desertions, about twelve million of the forty-five

million children in the U.S. (over one-fourth) do not live with both parents. A vicious circle is set in motion. As the Bible says: "The Fathers have eaten sour grapes, and the children's teeth are set on edge." (Jer. 31:29).

DAILY GRIND II - Swindoll - P. 323

Research in Depth. One weekend at our summer home in New Hampshire, we met a pleasant couple who had recently retired to a neighboring town. The husband, an avid fresh-water fisherman, was not completely happy, despite the lakes and streams close by. He missed his familiar haunts downstate, where he had known every foot of water, and could almost predict how many fish, and what kind, he would net on any particular day. Now he was in strange waters—and his luck had been all bad.

When we saw him three weeks later, he was radiant. In his freezer were ten beautiful bass, and he had just been passing out brook trout to his neighbors. What had wrought this happy change? The answer was simple. His wife, as a substitute teacher for a class of eighth-grade boys, had assigned homework dear to their hearts: A description of their favorite fishing waters, what they usually caught, and an accompanying map. After giving the boys the best marks they'd had in months, she turned the papers and maps over to her husband!

—Contributed by Wilbur Cross

The mind of Christ has been misinterpreted by friends and foes alike. After visiting a cathedral, former Soviet Premier Khrushchev contrasted his views of life with those of Jesus Christ. #3

There is much in Christ that is in common with us Communists, but I cannot agree with him when he says when you are hit on the right cheek turn the left cheek. I believe in another principle. If I am hit on the left cheek I hit back on the right cheek so hard that the head might fall off. This is my sole difference with Christ.

PEOPLE WHO CARE - C.W. Brewster - P.42

Psychologists have found that the number-one fear of human beings is the fear of abandonment. If we can stand nearby with out physical and emotional support and continued prayers, this fear will be lessened for teh griever. Many people have told me that theycan feel the withdrawal of prayers at the one-week point. Therefore it is important for us to not withdraw prayers after the funeral. #4

HOW CAN I HELP? - Kolf -P. 60

Disraeli:

No generalization is wholly true, including this one. *Put a 5/2 5/2 Book 2 Newb*

Dr. Joseph D. Matarazzo, head of the medical psychology department at the University of Oregon:

More psychotherapy is accomplished between good friends at coffee every morning at ten o'clock than all day long in doctors' offices. A good talk with a close friend can solve problems, or at least put them in perspective, before they become overpowering. One of the problems we face today is the scarcity of good friends. -AP

A MAN bought a parrot for \$1000. Sure, it cost plenty. But this bird had talent. Polly not only had a big vocabulary, but could rattle on in five languages. #6

The pet shop promised to deliver the bird that afternoon. After work, the proud owner rushed home and asked if it had arrived. It had, his wife told him. "Where is it?" he asked.

"In the oven," she replied.

"My God!" said the husband. "In the oven? Why, that bird knows five languages!"

"Well," asked his wife, "why didn't he speak up?"

-John D. deButts, quoted by John Costello in *Nation's Business*

of salvation for the world. He has chosen to bestow on us the honor of becoming co-workers with Him in the ongoing creative process. We can recognize our weaknesses and our strengths as we allow God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit to work in and through us. In all our personal weaknesses, He has given us His power and His authority to represent Him in and to the world. He can use "even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are" (1 Corinthians 1:28). Even when we who are the Church are not what God calls us to be. He can use us to accomplish His purposes. All that is required of us is to say yes to Him, and then trust Him to use us as He will.

I have discovered that the Church can learn a great deal about working together as the people of God by observing Canada geese. These beautiful creatures seem to know inherently what we would do well to learn!

1. *When Canada geese fly in formation, they travel seventy percent faster than when they travel alone.*

This is an excellent example of why the Bible emphasizes so strongly the importance of unity. A unified group can attain goals—whether they be flying south for the winter or following Jesus as Lord—more easily and more quickly than can single units. The New Testament is filled with exhortations for unity. St. Paul, in particular, saw this need. His exhortations in Ephesians 1:10 and 4:3-4 are expanded in Philippians 2:2: "Complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind."

Christians who have a common destination and travel in community move more quickly and easily than those who travel alone. Christians who try to keep their religion personal and private get sidetracked on their journeys and lose sight of the fact that Jesus Christ came to create a united community.

2. *The geese share leadership.*

The goose on the point of the inverted "V" formation is

in the most buffeted position. He catches the full force of the air currents and so tires more quickly than those who follow in more protected positions. When his energy is spent he rotates to the back and another goose flies forward to replace him. This is a good sermon on sharing leadership in a parish. Positions of leadership within the church catch the full force of the winds of criticism, complaints, and chores that are involved in maintaining the local church. They get tired; they get burned out! Everyone has occasional dry spells and needs to be refreshed and renewed. The twelfth chapter of 1 Corinthians reminds the Church that each member has talents and gifts that are to be used for the building up of the Body of Christ. Unless there is sharing and rotating of leadership, the gifts often go unused and the Church is poorer for it.

3. *Geese honk from behind to encourage those in front.*

The geese in the rear of the formation honk encouragement to those in the lead to keep up the speed. It is important to remember that there is a world of difference between squawking and honking! The geese seem to know by instinct something that we have to be taught: "Keep your tongue from evil, and your lips from speaking deceit" (Psalm 34:13); "If any one thinks he is religious, and does not bridle his tongue . . . this man's religion is in vain" (James 1:26); "Let no evil talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for edifying, as fits the occasion, that it may impart grace to those who hear" (Ephesians 4:29). Encouragement is something everyone needs and something everyone can give.

4. *Geese keep company with the fallen.*

When a sick or injured goose drops out of the flight, at least one other goose joins him to help and protect him. Most churches will respond to the needs of physically ill members but often fail to reach out to those who have "fallen" for other reasons. Galatians 6:2 reminds us that it is

in bearing one another's burdens that we fulfill the law of Christ, and 2 Corinthians 1:3-4 develops this theme more fully: "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God."

We can learn from the geese that when one of our members drops away from the flock, somebody needs to check on him or her—and not necessarily the ordained minister. There is a story about a little girl who was late coming home from an errand. When her mother asked what took her so long, she replied, "Susie broke her doll and I had to help her." "How could you help her?" her mother asked. "I had to help her cry," was the answer. We in the Church often find when we check on a fallen member that the need is simply for someone to show love and sympathy as this little girl showed her friend.

Individually and corporately Christians have a high calling. We are called first to commit ourselves to Jesus as our Lord and Savior, then to unite with other believers as members of His Church, and to accept our ministry and mission in and to the world.

Jesus knew when He called the Christian Church into being that He was calling it to an awesome task, yet with the call came the promise to the fledgling Church that "the gates of hell shall not prevail against it" (Matthew 16:18, KJV). The Revised Standard Version of this reads: "The powers of death shall not prevail against it." Both translations are useful in understanding Jesus' mighty promise.

The reference to the gates of hell implies that Jesus knew that the Church would come under attack by Satan just as He Himself had. The wiles and designs of the devil haven't changed much since Jesus underwent the temptations in the wilderness. Satan's first attempt was to get Jesus to doubt

God's plan and activity. "If you are the Son of God. . . ." The other temptations were to abort the ministry that was set before Him, and to follow the devil instead of God. The Church continues to be subject to similar attacks as we are tempted to doubt the Church's mission and to settle for some lukewarm, pathetic imitation of our original high calling, and to abort the mission and ministry of being Christ's Body on earth.

"The powers of death" may seem more relevant to some of our churches today than "the gates of hell." There are so many "dead" churches that many people probably feel that the apathy or complacency that marks such churches is evidence that the devil has already won that battle. Not so! The proclamation of victory comes in the words *shall not prevail against it*. Jesus has equipped it with power and given it the authority to be His ministering Body on earth.

Therefore, Jesus' triumphant promise becomes our battle cry, as we move forward in the confidence that neither attacks from without or indifference from within the Body of Christ shall thwart God's purpose for His creation—the Church!

Received
9/14/87
Room 29
Langley Lodge
Minneapolis
TX

Karl M,enninger has said the central purpose of each individual's life should be to dilute the misery in the world.

HOW CAN I HELP? -Kolp - P. 24

Prospero

TIME FLIES #9

Ever wonder how much of your time is taken up by routine activities? In a year-long study combining phone surveys, existing research, and actual stopwatch recordings of different situations, the Priority Management Co. in Pittsburgh made these discoveries:—A.C.M.

The average person spends.....

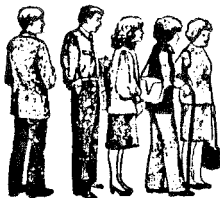


Seven years in the bathroom.

Six years eating.



Four years cleaning house.



Five years waiting in lines.

Two years trying to return telephone calls to people who aren't there to receive them.



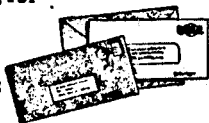
Three years preparing meals.

One year searching for misplaced things.



Six months sitting at red lights.

Eight months opening junk mail.



Luella Lee

Good Housekeeping/April 1989

faith has always been implicitly the common faith of mankind."⁴

Dewey's nontheistic religion of man without God is aptly called humanism. Although humanism was certainly not a new religion, in 1933 John Dewey, this one-time president of the American Humanist Association, along with thirty-three other prominent intellectuals, drafted and endorsed the basic tenets of their faith in a credal statement called Humanist Manifesto I. It is clear from this document that Dewey and the other members of the AHA regarded their belief in God's nonexistence as a religious conviction. This fact was affirmed twenty-eight years later by the U.S. Supreme Court in the *Toreaso v. Watkins* case (367 US 488[1961]). Here it was held that "among religions in this country which do not teach what would generally be considered a belief in the existence of God are Buddhism, Taoism, Ethical Culture, Secular Humanism, and others."

Forty years after the signing of Humanist Manifesto I, the American Humanist Association published the Humanist Manifesto II (1973). The following affirmations and principles from these two manifestos speak for themselves:

1 Religious humanists regard the universe as self-existing and not created. (Affirmation 1, H.M. I)

2 Humanism believes that man is a part of nature and that he has emerged as the result of a continuous process. (Affirmation 2, H.M. I)

3 We believe . . . that traditional . . . religions that place revelation, God, ritual or creed above human needs and experience do a disservice We find insufficient evidence for belief in the existence of a supernatural; . . . As non-theists, we begin with humans, not God, nature, not deity. . . . We can discover no divine purpose or providence for the human species . . . humans are responsible for what we are or

4. John Dewey, *A Common Faith* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1934), 87.

No Knowledge without Wisdom

will become. No deity will save us; we must save ourselves
(Principle 1, H.M. II) an

4 Promises of immortal salvation or fear of eternal damnation
are both illusory and harmful. . . . There is no credible
evidence that life survives the death of the body. We continue
to live in our progeny and in the way that our lives have
influenced others in our culture. (Principle 2, H.M. II)

5 We affirm that moral values derive their source from human
experience. Ethics is *autonomous* and *situational*, needing no
theological or ideological sanction. Ethics stems from human
need and interest. To deny this distorts the whole basis of life.
Human life has meaning because we create and develop our
futures. (Principle 3, H.M. II)

6 *Reason and intelligence* are the most effective instruments
that humankind possesses. There is no substitute: neither faith
nor passion suffices in itself. The controlled use of scientific
methods, which have transformed the natural and social
sciences since the Renaissance, must be extended further in
the solution of human problems. (Principle 4, H.M. II)⁵

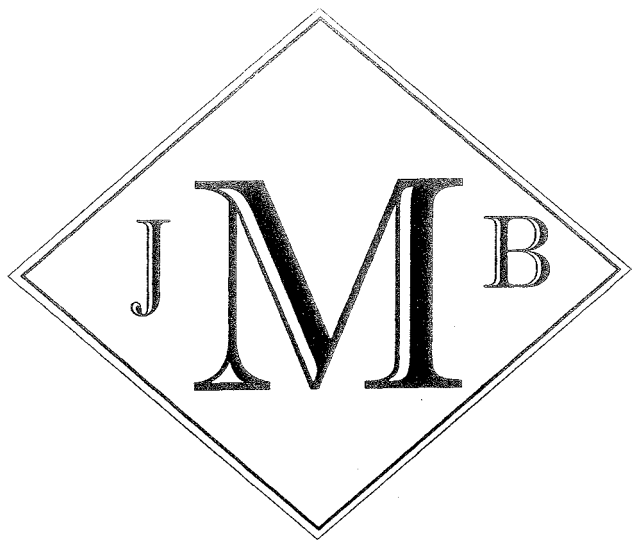
CHRISTIAN OVERMAN

public school classroom as its official mission field for the propagation of their faith, as evidenced by the following excerpt from a prize-winning essay by John Dunphy, published in the January-February 1983 issue of *The Humanist*, the journal of the AHA (Vol. 43, No. 1, p. 26).

I am convinced that the battle for humankind's future must be waged and won in the public school classroom by teachers who correctly perceive their role as the proselytizers of a new faith: a religion of humanity that recognizes and respects the spark of what theologians call divinity in every human being. These teachers must embody the same selfless dedication as the most rabid fundamentalist preachers, for they will be ministers of another sort, utilizing a classroom instead of a pulpit to convey humanist values in whatever subject they teach, regardless of the educational level—preschool, day-care or large state university. The classroom must and will become an arena of conflict between the old and the new—the rotting corpse of Christianity, together with all its adjacent evils and misery, and the new faith of humanism, resplendent in its promise of a world in which the never-realized Christian ideal of “love thy neighbor” will finally be achieved. #11

It is statements such as this that have caused fundamentalist preachers and others to sit up and take notice. The realization that Dewey's common faith has gradually taken prominence over a Judeo-Christian consensus in our schools, media, government, and law during the past fifty years has given rise to no small sense of alarm. The church at the end of the twentieth century is coming to the sober realization that if it doesn't do something about the situation now, America's biblical foundation may be totally swept away. The fruit of a privatized Christianity has nearly reached full term. The battle lines of the 1990s have been clearly drawn between two faiths in conflict—faith in man versus faith in God, faith in reason versus faith in revelation, faith in the Creator versus faith in the creature.

There are those today who will say that humanism is a



REMNANT WITHIN THE REMNANT

Malachi 3:13-18

I. They'd returned from Babylon.

- A. Last of 1000 years of inspired writings.
- B. 400 BC.
- C. 100 years back at home.
 - 1. 1st great religious enthusiasm.
 - 2. Now indifference & lax on morals.
 - 3. Revival needed.

Neh. 10:28-39

- D. I want you to see there is hope and a very bright future for those that obey God.

II. Now the Situation (Mal. 3:13-18)

A. Words stout against me.

- 1. Ungodly spoke harsh words.
- 2. Lit. words put a constraint on me to prove myself to be the God of judgement.
- 3. Do we insult with our St. Peter jokes?
- 4. Note they do not deny the charge.
- 5. Two expressions:
 - a) Says the Lord--repeatedly--they can deny but he remembers.
 - b) Yet ye say--constant rebuttal--key to book.

B. Their charges. *Futile to serve the Lord because*

- 1. It is vain to serve God. *1) Rt. not rewarded*
- 2. What profit in keeping ordinances? *2) wicked not*
 - a) Service gives no reward--no *Punished* gain.

Job. 22:15-17

Ps. 73

Isa. 58:3

*Uzin =
wp
substance*

Patile is technical expression of the weaver 2.

noting the portion of the thread that is cut off from the wool
Gen 3:26
Ps 30:10

- b) When religion does not meet our secular expectations we accuse God.
 - c) World's Judgement--no pay in serving God.
 - d) Sarcastic use as they wanted big things via injustice--a bribe.
 - e) Expect religiosity to pay big dividends.
 - f) Ordinances = that which He required to be kept--obeyed.
3. We walk mournfully.
- a) In black--mournful garb.
 - b) In apparel as if fasting for sin.
 - c) Serve the Lord with gladness--not to be a burden & kill-joy.
 - d) Attributed merit to outward forms without regard to the heart.
 - e) Heart not in their religion--outward form all that matters.
 - f) Yoke easy--burden light.
4. Call the Proud Happy
- a) Proud men domineer and none resist.
 - b) Really presumptuous sinners.
5. Wicked workers set up.
- a) Set up--build up, have wealth and families, leave a name behind them.
 - b) Metaphor from architecture.

III. Now Our Remnant *wicked seem to prosper*
A. Then--In every age there is one!

1. See 2 groups talking & contrast what they are saying. *God will ultimately extend His vengeance Lu 21:19*

Some consistency regarding God - more FOR HIM!
they fear the fires of Hell

2. The godless & the godly conversed together but conversely.

3. Sweet Remnant.

1 King 18:18

Rom. 11:4

B. Characteristics

Ps 135=4

1. Feared the Lord.

Rom 11=5

a) Reverence

b) What they said not recorded.

Ezra 4:4 "Trembled at the word of the God of Israel"

2. Thought on His name.

a) Prized, esteemed his name.

b) Frequent thoughts about God rewarding.

C. Spake often to one another.

1. Spoke in little groups.

2. Strengthened one another in goodness & faithfulness.

3. Often.

4. Separated coals go out. Together grow into a flame.

5. Socialibility is true religion.

6. No force in the world so socializing as religion.

D. God's Reaction

1. Harkened & Heard

a) Hears all we say.

b) Harken = to prick ears like animal.

c) Hear--picture to bend low, no sound escapes.

2. Wrote in Book of Remembrance

- a) God preserves memory of this.
- b) So much approved He wrote it down.

God pays attention to those who pay attention to Him

They:

- Feared God - *make sense to serve God even when others do not*
- Spoke with one another often
- Thought on His name

In the midst of confusion see those that fear Him

3. My jewels--they shall be mine.

- a) Peculiar treasure. *Look to future for Jew ends*
- b) Word of value--jewels.
- c) Variety & color.
- d) Never a precious stone in Scrp.
- e) Dear to us are jewels.

Exo. 19:5

Ps. 58:11

4. Spare them--though valuable we do not gain by human merit.

- a) As man his son. *you will see what*
- b) One who serves. *it means to be HIS*
- "Faith" in them to return & discern between good & evil.
- a) I share this dream. *(distinguish between)*
- b) Come to senses in time.
- c) We serve God with the disposition of children.
- d) With our own eyes see His justice done.

Agony problems prosperities wicked vs struggle of Righteous. Note Contrast between saved & wicked Ps 73: 16-17

Madison St., Clarksville, TN - 8/12/92

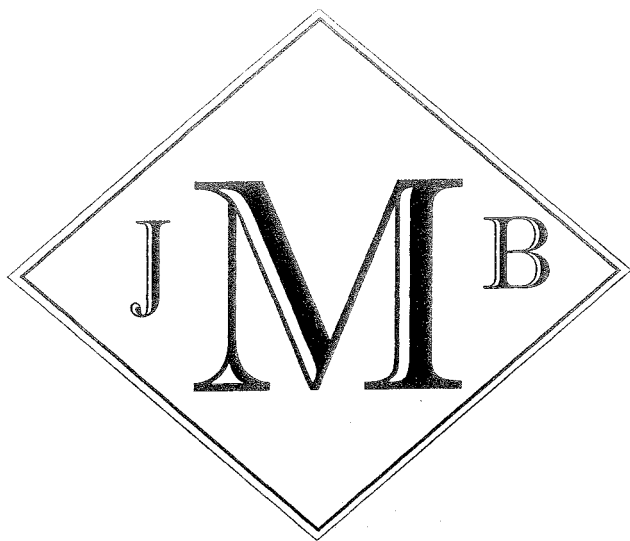
e) Him that serves vs serves not 2 classes: wheat chaff; rt & left hand wheat tares wise foolish

Neely's Bend - 3/21/04

A week or so later, Powers sent me a card with a quotation that President Kennedy had inscribed for him on a silver mug, a gift on his friend's fiftieth birthday. It read: "There are three things which are real: God, Human Folly, and Laughter. The first two are beyond our comprehension, so we must do what we can with the third." Amen.

--Tim Russert
Big Russ & Me

pg. 154



SAME SONG, SAME VERSE

Mal. 3:16-18

I. We vary the title a bit because they sing the same refrain:

A. Innocency.

B. Repetition.

C. Guiltless.

D. No repentance--like Carlisle - "no help wanted."

II. But at least there are some that spoke properly--God is never without His witness. About these folk, please note some description:

A. Feared the Lord.

1. No doubt out-numbered.

2. Note in Step C rebellion.

3. These contrast those who speak evil.

4. They earlier said no profit in serving God.

5. V.14 vain-futile-technical expression of the weaver noting the portion of the thread that is cut off from the work.

Gen. 37:26

Psalm 30:10

B. Spoke often one to another.

1. From each other draw strength.

2. Think a minute about someone who has spoken to you an encouraging, faithful word.
3. Do we frequently try to lift each other?
4. How sociable are we?
5. In every age there is a remnant.
6. Speak in little groups.

C. The Lord hearkened and heard.

1. He is concerned about our faithfulness and notices it.
2. He makes a record of it in the Book of Remembrance -- Scroll.
3. By your name has He written "he reverences me"?
4. Are you thrilled that the Lord thinks of you?
5. Do you ever get a letter and someone says "I was thinking of you! How do you feel"? If it's useless to serve God, why would he record it?

Psalm 2:1-3; 2 Thess. 2:8-10; Rev. 16:13-16;
Rev. 18:19; Psalm 103:13; Isaiah 26:20

6. Contrast this attitude with what earlier was said being the opposite.

v.13 "Your words have been shout.."

- a) Backsliders failed to judge sin and evildoers.

- b) They said (v.14) it's not worth much to serve God.
- c) It would be a powerful incentive to holy living if we could see the results.
- d) But their words were "stout" against God -- strong, obdurate, arrogant.
- e) Surely there are things God requires to be kept!
- f) But they go about in mourning garb with sackcloth and ashes.
- g) They that work wickedness are "set up" (v.15) - built up-- an architectural metaphor.
- h) They tempt God--test Him.

Psalm 95:9

- i) Defy Him openly.

Job 22:15-17

Psalm 73

Isaiah 58:3

D. With verse 17 we return to better days:

1. They shall be mine.
2. Three characteristics.
 - a) Feared God.
 - b) Spoken often with each other in mutual exhortation.
 - c) Thought on His name - Ezra 4:4

2. Make up my jewels.

Exo.19:5

- a) Jewels are valuable--so are you.
- b) Variety in color and cut.
- c) Jewels something dear.

3. Spare them as a man spares his son that serves him.

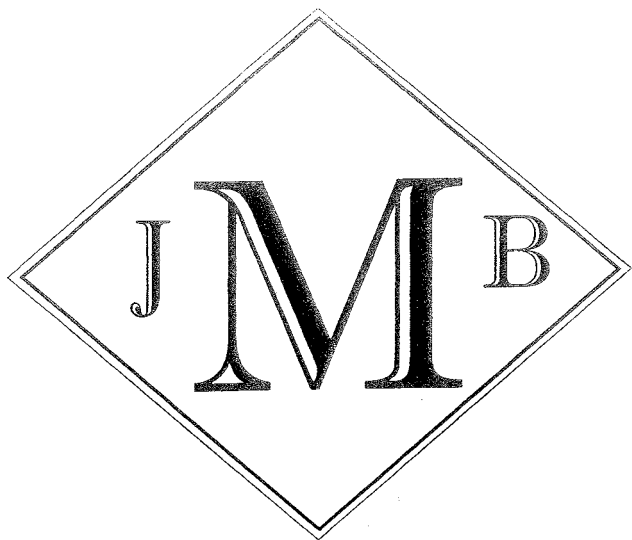
- a) Think of what Mark did in handling his mother's estate.
- b) God doesn't settle all accounts in October.

Luke 21:19

- c) There's ever been two classes of folk serve and serve not; right hand and left hand; wheat-chaff; lost-saved; wise-foolish.

Matt.7:24-27

- d) Remember it makes sense to serve God whether anyone else does or not.
- e) God pays attention to those who pay attention to Him.
- f) Pay from God is more than the material.



IT'S JUDGEMENT TIME

Malachi 4

I. As do all things, the opportunity to right all wrongs finally ends.

A. It's Judgement Time.

B. It's Justice in the Hands of God.

C. He warns all, but He will keep his word.

D. Let's see Malachi's presentation.

II. The Day That Comes *Certain to come*
Mal. 4:1 "For behold, the day cometh"

A. Great & Terrible.

B. Has Bright & Dark Side.

1. Some say God will do neither good nor evil, therefore no need to worry.

2. Warned--man best be ready.

C. Burn as an oven.

1. Fire symbolizes the holiness of God.

2. Consumes all impurities and punishes the ungodly.

3. Fire is what man dreads most when it's out of control.

4. We rely on it to purify the good and destroy evil.

5. Judgement & Fire go together.

6. Oven

a) Here fire hottest.

b) Intense heat.

c) Whole world becomes one vast furnace.

D. That Burned

1. Proud - *Arrogant*

a) Cannot have the slightest velleity other than the all perfect will of God.

b) End of all self-righteousness.

2. Wicked--those that do wickedly.

Evil doers

a) Outside the scope of the redeemed.

b) Those that have no moral stand.

E. Results *Nothing connected c w righteousness will be spared.*

1. Like stubble.

a) Useless.

b) Without life or beauty.

c) Destroyed, painfully and completely.

2. No root or branch. *Job 18:76-21 (NIV)*

a) No hope of sprouting again.

b) Total destruction.

III. On the Opposite Site.

A. Fear my Name

1. Reverence

2. Obedience

3. Trusting

4. Rely on Him

To act rightly in the terms of the norm

B. Rising of Sun of Righteousness

1. What the sun is to material world, Messiah is to moral.

2. Sun gives light.

3. Sun gives energy.

4. (Space ship to sun--burn up--go at night.) *Is 25:3,5*

5. Healing in his wings.

Ps. 139:9 "If I take the wings of the"

C. Go Forth--Grow Like Calves

1. Go forth as from miseries of life & bound forth like an animal that's been confined & gains its freedom.

(Figure to show the expression of joy)

*Rtress
apparent
like sun
Ps 37:6*

2. Great reversal--here the wicked have sway but now changes.
3. Prance & sport like calves.
4. Brings health to a diseased world and makes those healed vigorous.
5. Tread down the wicked--ashes under the soles of your feet.

IV. Remember

A. The Law of Moses my servant.

1. Deplored the estrangements that had grown up between generations.
2. Bring together the spirit of the past and present.
3. Conserve all the ancient plus eagerness for the new.
4. Don't discard the old ways as tho it's nothing.
5. Religion is a living thing.
6. There are eternal virtues but the mode of giving expression to them must vary with the temporal and local conditions under which we live. (i.e. 2 hr. sermon vs 8 sec. on TV)
7. The new could not be born except of the old, the old gives evidence of life by being transformed into the new. (Speakers)
8. Yet forgetfulness of the law is at the bottom of all our transgressions.
9. Forsake not the 1st principles even as you add more truth.
10. God commands--we obey!

11. Law of Moses revealed character of God.

12. Remember to refresh your mind.

B. Elijah Will Come First

1. Moses & Elijah compare.
 - a) Witnesses in a wicked age.
 - b) Both called to a mountain.
 - c) Both talked to God.
 - d) Both fasted 40 days.
 - e) Both did miracles.
 - f) Both left the earth strangely.
2. God thus gives warnings and time to hearers.
3. As was Moses, the righteous are held in everlasting remembrance.
4. Advent of our Lord told even before the beginning of the world.
5. Just as soon as man fell, God promised a Savior.
6. Jews say since Elijah personally did not reappear the Messiah has not yet come.
 - a) Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Hosea say nation to be united under one head even King David.

Jer. 30:9

Ezek. 34:23-24

Hosea 3:5

Ezek. 37:24-25

- b) Does any Jew expect King David to personally appear?
7. Hearts of Fathers to Children
Hearts of Children to Fathers.

- a) Binds families fast to each other by 1st binding to the Lord.
- b) Lord improves everything.

C. Curse or Blessing?

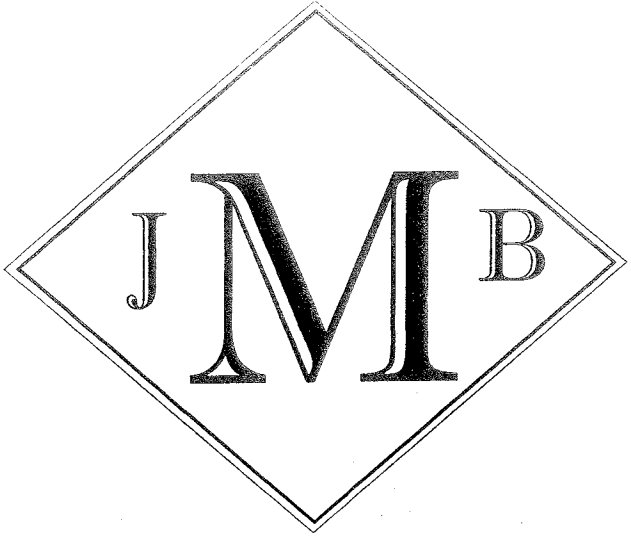
1. Jews change the end of the book to avoid curse.
2. We avoid curse by changing our lives.
3. Object: lead men to salvation.

4. Live by the word - do will RETURN

40th & Hazel, Pine Bluff, AR - 9/16/92

In the old days when the Scottish people were diligent in their work for Christ, they adopted a motto and put it up as a big sign in the center of the city of Glasgow. "Let Glasgow flourish by the preaching of the Word and the praising of His name." But in time the pressure of business became more important than religion. The sign was embarrassing. They abbreviated it to read "Let Glasgow flourish." That's the trend of the world today.

From SIMPLE SERMONS by Ford
Page 117



THE DAY THAT COMETH

Mal. 4:1

- I. As we come to the close of this combative book, we'll see God has the last word.
- II. We'll see the promised end of unrighteous and that they then eat their words when they said God doesn't care.
- III. In the final lesson we'll see a most meaningful word ending of Old Testament-it's "cursed" - contrast that with New Testament opening that of blessedness.
- IV. Let's go to Malachi's faithful last words-Malachi 4:1.
 - A. It starts with "For."
 1. Final message of all Old Testament prophets.
 2. People who can reason can do something about their inattentiveness.
 3. The six verses of our Chapter 4 Bible are included in Chapter 6 of the Hebrew Bible.
 4. Verse and chapter celebration is the work of man anyhow.
 5. God is not just speaking to thin air, but to mankind about the judgment to come-are we listening?

6. It may be that the address goes only to a remnant of the gospel.
7. We'll behold the righteousness of God.
8. After a comprehensive "For" descends with the sun and will see the judgment.

B. Significance of the day.

1. Aren't there two days--one the First Coming.
2. Second His return.
 - a. Catastrophic.
 - b. Certain
 - c. Involves certainty.
3. This is the theme: The Day.
4. It is judgment time.
5. Day has dark and light side.
6. As our sun is the source of all light, so the church is the sun of all light to the worshiper.

C. Day burns as an oven.

1. Intense heat.
2. Burns hotter than open air.
3. Oven or furnace for intense heat.
4. Whole world becomes one vast oven.
5. This is the place for the wicked.

D. Destiny of the proud.

1. This embraces the arrogant (remember those who talk back to God) and all evil does.

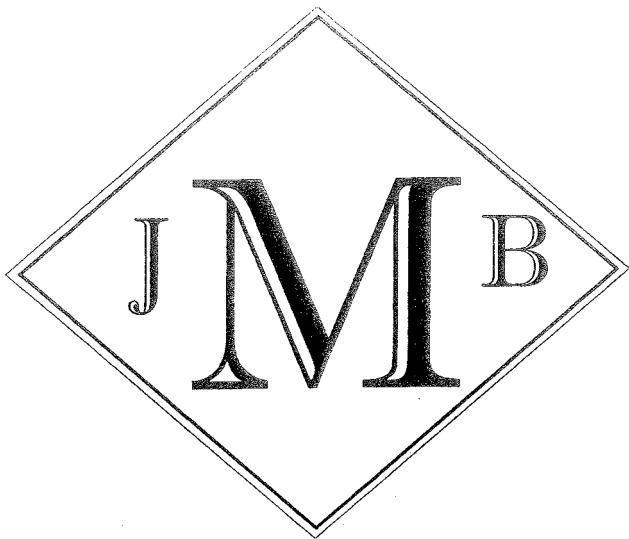
2. It is a time sure to come.
 3. God publicly intervenes in human affairs.
 4. Catastrophic suddenness bursts forth.
 5. Proud counts for the haughty, dispersers of God, the rebellious.
 6. Counts all that do wickedness.
 7. God is concerned with both attitude (arrogant) and action (evil doers).
 8. Some were saying God will do neither good or punishment, therefore no need to worry.
- E. When God is through with them they will be like stubble, be burned up, leave them neither root nor branch.
1. Stubble is no good--we plow right through it, it's worthless.
 2. Destroy it painfully and completely.
 3. Fire symbol of holiness.
 4. Impurities to be consumed.
 5. Ungodly are punished.
 6. Judgment and fire go together.
- F. Root and branch.
1. Nothing connected with unrighteousness to spared.
 2. No root left.

3. See the full venting of divine
wrath against sin.

4. No hope of this sprouting again.

Neely's Bend - 4/4/04

Heritage - 11/7/04



THE NEW DAY THAT'S DAWNING

Mal. 4:2-3

I. The long promised change.

A. For vs. But

1. "For" - you caused the calamity of v-1.
2. "But" - God's tolerance is over and blessings are to come.
3. A distinct class--those that fear His name.
4. It is not a frightened folk, but a reverent one.
5. "Fear" shows respect, adoration and obedience.
6. God is the champion of all my life--in devotion bow before Him.

B. For this elect people the Sun of righteousness arises.

1. Righteousness

- a. To act rightly by His terms.
- b. Wounds are healed.

Isa. 53:5 *But he was wounded for us - bruised*

- c. Trouble caused by sin is corrected.
- d. Three prophecies--coming of John, coming of Jesus, coming destruction. Starts with love, ends with curse

2. Sun

- a. What the Sun is to the material world, Jesus is to moral.
- b. Light comes after darkness.

John 1:4-9

- c. Warmth after cold.

Psalm 19:6

- His going forth is from the end*
- d. Health after sickness--as sun chases infection.
 - e. Sun blames dry-up mists, awake birds, bring grass.

3. Is not the sun Jesus?

4. Righteousness will shine.

Matt. 13:43

then shall the net shine forth sun

5. Jesus is the Sun.

2 Sam. 23:4

Light arise. *Read 1-4*

Psalm 84:11

God is sun and shield. *G+G*

Luke 1:78

Dayspring from His visits.

John 1:9

True light.

John 8:12

I am light *of w. he that followeth*

Eph. 5:14

Awake thou that sleepest.

2 Pet. 1:19

Ye do well to take heed.

Rom. 3:22

Righteousness of God through faith.

6. Righteousness one of the names of God.

Jer. 23:6

The Lord of our righteousness

Jer. 33:16

" " " " " "

7. Fountain of light and vital to heat to His church.
8. Jesus is light of knowledge, warmth of love, radiation of joy. (Spurgeon)
9. Nothing helps vegetation life like light--best of all medicine--sore given air.
10. Like the sun--every word of Christ is life.
11. Sun arise--come early to Christ.
12. Sun for healing in His wings--because of sun poetically called wings--wings shafts of light.

C. Go forth and grow up--calves.

1. Calves leap out of stall when turned loose to pasture.
2. Leap for word horses gallop.

Hab. 1:8 *Swifter than heeaps*

3. When Jesus is with His people they are fed abundantly, comfortably housed, contented, joy like calves turned loose.
4. Adam Clark says in seige of Jerusalem no Christian died.

D. Tread down the wicked.

Be ashes under soles of feet.

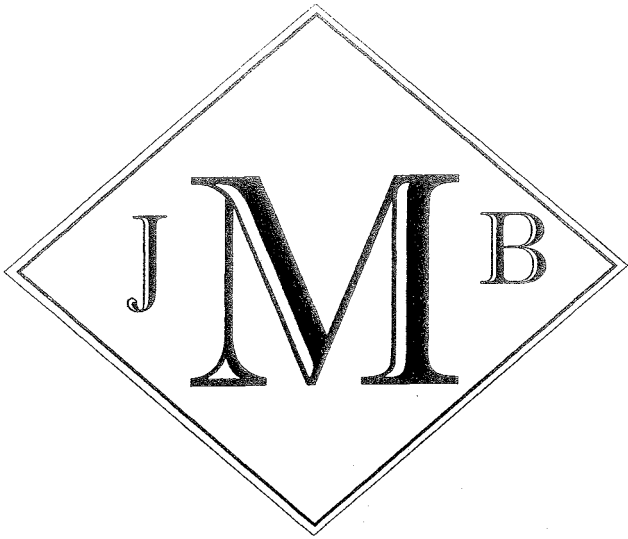
In that day I shall do this says the Lord of hosts.

2 Sam. 22:43

Mi. 7:10

Zech. 10:5

They shall be as mighty men which tread down their enemies, in the mire of the streets in the battle



THE FINAL WORD

Mal. 4:4-6

- I. With this lesson we bid goodbye to a special friend - Malachi.
 - A. I hope one day to see him and thank him.
 - B. I'll be curious to ask something about himself--he's told so little in the book.
 1. Did you write anything else?
 2. Did you know you were the last prophet til John the Baptist?
 3. How did you know you were writing, via inspiration?
 4. How long did it take to write these 54-55 verses?
 5. Where did you write it--all at one sitting?
 6. How did you have access to all the questions asked of God and man?
 7. Did you realize we in the church of Christ would be studying your words?
 8. Why did you so often identify God as the Lord of Hosts?
 9. Where was your message first heard - temple? synagogue? homes?
 10. What was the local reaction to your message?

11. What did you receive--criticism or praise?
12. Did God have for you and your writings any special reward?

II. Let's now turn to his final words.

A. Remember you.

1. So easy to forget.
 - a. Supper - remember me.
 - b. What do you recall from our study?
2. No more prophesy til John the Baptist, so be sure you remember what now is given you.
3. Remember and refresh mind with the Word.
4. Religion is a living thing.
5. Forgetfulness of the Word is at the bottom of all our transgressions. (Scott)
6. We need to abide in the first principles even as we learn more.
7. You - is my task to recall.

B. Law of Moses

1. Live by the Word.
2. Keep it in memory--so refresh it repeatedly.
3. I'm Oliver Yates--I know you know that, but I keep saying it so I'll remember!
4. We are told to remember His promised return.

5. Law immediately answers all things for which we are responsible to God.
6. God by His servant Moses spoke to all of Israel.
7. Office of conscience makes you remember the law.

C. Servant Moses

1. The servant was instructed--it was Word of God given to Moses.
2. Righteousness of each man held in everlasting remembrance by God.
3. God will not overlook even your cup of cold water--nor just water but the extra you do for others.
4. John North asked where are you going for lunch? Then he said "I'm going to Steve and JoAnn's."
5. Paul Brown, who has been told to sing Dixie at Sister Bowman's funeral, told her "Well, you ~~make~~ ^{made} the preachers' luncheon."
6. Commanded--not suggested--Word has teeth in it.
7. It was for all--everybody--not just a few.
8. It's Statutes and Judgments
 - a. Difference- between the two is different.
 - b. By Word will we be judged?

- c. A.M. Burton used to quote the test questions of Matthew 25 and said I, surely knowing questions to be asked, will get ready for these.

III. Promise to send Elijah

- A. Something for people to watch for and such will prove whether God knows what He is ~~w~~alking about or not.
- B. God makes future plans for His folk always.
- C. Elijah
1. Fearless prophet--always outnumbered.
 2. Whether imminent or not, he is sure to come.
 3. Jews say Elijah did not come so they look for Jesus to come the first time.
 - a. Still set a plate ^{for} of Elijah Tisbite at the feast of Purim.
 - b. Even changed their Bible so it does not end with a curse.
 4. No prophet between Malachi and Elijah.
 5. Read Matthew 17:12.
 6. Elijah came, via John, and a new order established.

7. Some points of remembrance between Moses and Elijah.
 - a. Witness in a wicked age.
 - b. Both called to a mountain.
 - c. Both talked to God.
 - d. Both fasted 40 days.
 - e. Both had similar miracles.
 - f. Both left earth strangely.
8. Two objections ~~to~~ ^{to} Christianity.
 - a. Concernment to God.
 - b. Prepare for coming Christ.

IV. There Comes a Day

- A. Via judgment men called to accountability.
- B. Be a personal judgment.
- C. Grand distinction: Him that serve God; Him that serves not God.
- D. Righteousness becomes apparent like the sun.
- E. Jesus as the Sun
 1. Center of our whole system.
 2. Grand attraction--hold fast.
 3. Source of all good.
 4. Without variableness or shadow of turning.
 5. He's the whole--rise and set--what ^{then} would we be without the sun?
- F. ^{then} Twin hearts of fathers to children and children to fathers.

1. Win both parent and children to God thus find them closer together.
2. Restore family harmony.
3. Deplores estrangement that has grown up between generations.
4. Bring together the spirit of the past and present.
5. Conserve all the ancient vs. eagerness for the new and modern.
6. Not discard old ways nor reject all new.
7. There are eternal verities, but the mode of giving expression to them must vary with temporal and local conditions under which we live--
two hour sermon via 8 sec. change of every TV scene.

G. Smite the earth with a curse.

1. Jew changed his Bible order so it does not end with a curse.
2. This prophesy started with "love you" and ends with curse.
3. Jesus' first word on mount was blessed--law wrath and curse.
4. Old Testament closes with greater blessings promised, so does New Testament.
5. Old Testament leaves you hanging, anticipating, searching.

Back in the car, I suggested to Luke that he write the President a thank you note. His letter went something like this: "Dear Mr. President, Thank you for introducing me to the Hall of Famers and for showing me the Oval Office. I think that if I work really hard, I'll have a chance for both."

The next time I saw the president, I told him about my son's ambitious plans. His response was beautiful: "Never get between a boy and his dreams."

--Tim Russert
Big Russ & Me

Ambition

