

# Give God Your Best

Malachi 1:6-13

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## Introduction

### God expects the best from His people

- In the days of Malachi, God's people did not give God their best
  - Verses 6-8a – “... is that not evil?”
  - Verse 8b – “... will he accept you ...”
  - Their offerings were rejected by God – “I have no pleasure in you” (Verse 10)
  - They looked on serving the Lord as, “What a weariness this is” (Verse 13)
- God will never accept second place; the scraps or left-overs of our lives
- Jesus taught that He and His Father are to be **FIRST PLACE** in all areas of our lives
  - Matthew 6:33 – “... seek first the kingdom of God ...”

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## Give God Your Best With Your Talents

### We all have talents – See Matthew 25:14-30

- Talents refer to the abilities we have
  - Verse 15 – “... each according to his ability”
- God expected the best of these three men as He does us
  - The one talent man hid behind the excuse, “I was afraid” – Verse 25 (cf. Revelation 21:8, “... for the fearful ...”)
  - We must develop our talents – because we need teachers, preachers, elders, deacons, wives, mothers, fathers, and children to carry on the Lord's work
    - I Corinthians 15:58 – “be steadfast, immovable, always abounding ...”

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## Give God Your Best With Your Worship

### The Old Testament is a commentary on the misdirected and false worship of the Lord's people

- Four kinds of worship are mentioned in the Bible:
  - “vain” – Matthew 15:7-9 – “in vain do they worship me ...” (see Isaiah 29:13)
  - “ignorant” – Acts 17:23 – “... ye worship in ignorance”
  - “will” – Colossians 2:20-23 – “... a show of wisdom in will-worship”
  - “in spirit and in truth” – John 4:23-24 – “... worship in spirit and truth”

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## Give God Your Best With Your Worship

### Our worship must be from the heart as we engage in:

- Singing – Ephesians 5:19 (ASV) – “... making melody with your heart to the Lord” (cf. Colossians 3:16)
- Praying – Acts 12:5 – “... earnest prayer ...”
- Giving – I Corinthians 16:1-2 – “On the first day of every week ...”
- Teaching – Acts 2:42 – “... who will be able to teach others also”
- The Lord's Supper – I Corinthians 11:23-34 – “Do this in remembrance of me”

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## Give God Your Best Where You Live

### You might not recognize it but those in your neighborhood are watching your living

- II Corinthians 3:2 – “... known and read by all”
- What are your neighbors reading from you?
- Are you a law-abiding citizen?
  - Romans 13:1-2 – “... be subject to the governing authorities”
  - I Peter 2:17-19 – “Honor the emperor”
- Do your best to be the best neighbor in your neighborhood because your conduct in life is a direct reflection on the Lord's church
  - Romans 12:18 – “... live peaceably with all”

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## Give God Your Best In Your Family

**All members of physical families must accept their God-given roles and responsibilities**

- Men ...
  - I Corinthians 11:3 – “**the head** of a wife is her husband” (See also Ephesians 5:23-24)
  - Ephesians 5:25-33 – “... **love his wife** as himself”
  - I Peter 3:7 – “**showing honor** to the woman ...”
  - Ephesians 6:4 – “... children ... **nurture them** ...”
  - I Timothy 5:8 – “... provide for his relatives ...”

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## Give God Your Best In Your Family

**All members of physical families must accept their God-given roles and responsibilities**

- Women ...
  - Ephesians 5:22, 24, 31 – “submit to your own husbands, **as to the Lord** ... as the church submits to Christ ... the two shall become one flesh”
  - I Corinthians 11:3 – “... **the head of** ... man ... wife ... Christ”
  - Titus 2:3-4 – “... to **love their husbands and children**”

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## Give God Your Best In Your Family

**All members of physical families must accept their God-given roles and responsibilities**

- Children...
  - Ephesians 6:1-2 – “... obey your parents **in the Lord** ...”
  - Colossians 3:20 – “... for this pleases the Lord”
    - cf. Ephesians 6:4 – “... **nurture them** in the chastening and admonition of the Lord”
    - cf. Colossians 3:21 – “... **do not provoke** your children ...”
  - Jesus’ example
    - Luke 2:51 – “... submissive to them”

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## Give God Your Best In Your Job

**We should have a good attitude toward our work**

- Ephesians 4:28 – “... work with his own hands”
- Titus 2:8-10 – “... they may adorn the doctrine of God ...”
- Colossians 3:22-24 – “work heartily, as for the Lord ...”
- I Thessalonians 4:11-12 – “... work with your hands”
- II Thessalonians 3:6-12 – “If anyone is not willing to work, let him not eat”

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## Give God Your Best In Your Work For The Lord

**There is no greater work**

- I Corinthians 15:58 – “always abounding in **the work of the Lord**”
- John 9:4 – “We must **work the works** of him who sent me ...”
- Revelation 20:12-15 – “according to **what they had done**”

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## Give God Your Best In All You Do

**All that we do and say must be according to the Lord’s authority**

- Colossians 3:17 – “... do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus”
- Matthew 28:18 – “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me”
  - Failure to believe this has caused a multitude of problems among God’s people
- Ephesians 5:24 – “the church is subject to Christ”
- Ephesians 1:22 – “... head over all things to the church”

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## Give God Your Best

- ✓ With Your Talents
- ✓ By Your Worship
- ✓ Where You Live
- ✓ In Your Family
- ✓ In Your Job
- ✓ In Your Work For The Lord
- ✓ In All You Do

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## What Does God Require Of You?

### Hear the Word of God

- James 1:21 – “Therefore put away all filthiness and rampant wickedness and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls.”

### Believe the Gospel message

- Hebrews 11:6 – “And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him.”

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## What Does God Require Of You?

### Repent of your sins

- Acts 3:19 – “Repent therefore, and turn again, that your sins may be blotted out”

### Confess that Jesus is the Son of God

- Romans 10:9-10 – “... because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved.”

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## What Does God Require Of You?

### Be immersed in water

- Acts 2:38 – “And Peter said to them, ‘Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.’”

### Remain faithful

- Hebrews 3:12-14 – “... if indeed we hold our original confidence firm to the end”

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