

Malachi 3:16-18

What God Deserves From Us

The Context Of Malachi

- Following the return from Babylonian captivity in 538 BC
- Malachi written around the mid-400's BC
 - The Temple and walls had been completed
 - Ezra 6:14-15 – "They finished their building"
 - Nehemiah 4:6 – "... the people had a mind to work"
 - Nehemiah 6:15 – "... finished on the twenty-fifth day of the month Elul"

The Context Of Malachi

- The people had become apathetic
 - A new generation was also now on the scene
 - Malachi 1:13 – "What a weariness this is"
- They were condemned for:
 - Profaning God's name
 - Malachi 1:11-12 – "... you profane it ..."
 - Unacceptable offerings
 - Malachi 1:6-8, 14 – "... you offer blind animals in sacrifice"

What God Deserves From Us

Acknowledgment and Appreciation

- **For His love**
 - Malachi 1:2-5 – "How have you loved us?"
 - John 3:14-17 – "... that the world might be saved through him"
 - Romans 5:6-8 – "... God shows his love for us ..."
- **For His Salvation**
 - Zephaniah 1:12 – "... I will punish the men who are complacent"
 - Romans 6:23 – "... the free gift of God is eternal life ..."
 - II Timothy 1:8-10 – "who saved us and called us to a holy calling"

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Honor

- Malachi 1:6 – "How have we despised your name?"
- Isaiah 58:13-14 – "... you shall take delight in the Lord"
- Proverbs 3:5-9 – "Honor the Lord ..."
- John 5:21-23 – "... honor the Son, just as they honor the Father"

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Reverence

- Malachi 1:6 – "If then I am a father, where is my honor?"
- Hebrews 12:28-29 – "... acceptable worship, with reverence and awe"
- Colossians 3:16 – "with thankfulness in your hearts to God"
- Ephesians 6:6 – "doing the will of God from the heart"

What God Deserves From Us

Our First and Our Best

- Firstfruits
 - Malachi 1:8 – “will he accept you or show you favor?”
 - Exodus 23:16, 19 – “... the firstfruits of your labor”
 - Matthew 6:33 – “... seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness”
- Our Best
 - Malachi 1:13 – “Shall I accept that from your hand?”
 - Leviticus 22:20 – “... it will not be acceptable ...”
 - Matthew 22:37 – “... with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind”

What God Deserves From Us

Teaching His Word Only

- **A Responsibility**
 - Malachi 2:7-8 – “... you have turned aside from the way”
 - Galatians 1:6-9 – “... distort the gospel of Christ”
 - II Timothy 4:2-4 – “be ready in season and out of season”
- **Teach It Impartially**
 - Malachi 2:9 – “... show partiality in your instruction”
 - James 2:1-4 – “show no partiality as you hold the faith ...”
 - Acts 10:34-35 – “Truly I understand that God shows no partiality”

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Giving Back To The Lord

- **A Responsibility**
 - Malachi 3:8-10 – “Will man rob God? Yet you are robbing me”
 - Deuteronomy 14:22 – “You shall tithe all the yield of your seed ...”
 - II Corinthians 9:6-8 – “... God loves a cheerful giver”
- **A Proper Perspective**
 - I Chronicles 29:13-17 – “all things come from you”
 - II Corinthians 8:1-5 – “... they gave themselves first to the Lord ...”

Obeying The Gospel

Hear the Word of God

- James 1:21 – “... receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls.”

Believe the Gospel message about Jesus

- I John 3:23-24 – “... that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ ...”

Obeying The Gospel

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 – “... with the mouth one confesses and is saved”

Obeying The Gospel

Be immersed in water

- Acts 2:38 – “Repent and be baptized every one of you ...”

Remain faithful

- I Corinthians 15:1-2 – “if you hold fast to the word I preached to you – unless you believed in vain”