

The 12 Minor Prophets
“Does it matter HOW we worship?”
Malachi 1:1-5
Sunday, April 28, 2013

INTRODUCTION

Who was Malachi?

- His name means “my messenger”

When did he Prophecy?

- Most likely a contemporary of Ezra & Nehemiah, though written later

What is the main theme?

- Through Zechariah and Haggai, the temple had been rebuilt
- Through Ezra, the people had become reacquainted with the Law
- Through Nehemiah, the wall had been rebuilt
- But the people were not worshipping the Lord rightly

What is the aim?

- Exhort the people to worship rightly and with the right heart, showing reverence for the awesome God.
- To renew their covenant faithfulness.

What is the overarching question?

- Does it matter HOW we worship?
 - Not about style of music
 - Not about our sincerity

- It’s about the purpose and essence of our worship
- It’s about whether or not we view God rightly and worship Him in accordance with His nature & work
- We worship what we behold. If we do not see God rightly (His nature & work) we do not worship rightly, and wrong worship is deadly.

A. Worship Matters: The Big Picture

1. Today, Disputation 1: **1:1-5**
 - a) In 3 weeks, the other 5 disputations... **1:6-4:3** (Lazy offerings, Foreign marriages & divorce, adultery & selfishness, More lazy offerings, God will judge all)
 - b) In our last week together on Malachi, and the minor prophets, we’ll look at the closing remarks in **4:4-6**
2. How we worship matters because God says it does
3. How we worship matters because we, by and large, don’t get worship

B. Worship Matters: Worship begins with a right view of God’s Love

1. Disputation 1: God is loving (despite the view that He allows wicked to prosper)
 - a) When those who follow God suffer, and those who do wicked appear to prosper, going un-judged, questions of God’s love for His own are raised
 - b) God is laying the foundation for their right understanding of true worship, even in difficult

circumstances, by laying out the truth of His electing love -- their view is of self instead of God's mercy extended

2. Gracious election (**v.2-4**)

a) This is love (**v.2**)

- (1) He loves because He loves
- (2) Jacob, and his line, he accepted
- (3) Esau, and his line, he rejected (not really animosity, nor is the election based on what He would see in the future)

b) This is love vindicated (**vv.3-4**)

- (1) **Romans 9:8-16**
- (2) Love Here is Acceptance / Hatred here is rejection, not animosity
 - (a) **Deut. 23:7**
 - (b) God's rejection of sin and sinners must be in concert with His character and work
- (3) **1 John 4:9-10**
- (4) **1 John 4:16-19**

3. Resultant praise (**v.5**)

- a) Universal vs. Universalism (**Romans 9:8** above)
- b) Seeing precedes / produces Saying

Application

A. Our response today is to SEE His love

B. We see His love in communion