

The 12 Minor Prophets
“The Heart of Worship Matters”
Malachi 4
Sunday, May 26, 2013

INTRODUCTION

Who was Malachi?

- His name means “my messenger”

When did he Prophecy?

- 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...though sincere enough to practice, they were not careful enough, not enthralled enough, to really worship the Lord their God.

What is the aim?

- Exhort the people to worship rightly and renew their covenant faithfulness.

What is the overarching question?

- Does it matter HOW we worship?

A. Judgment is Coming (vv.1-3)

1. His enemies judged & punished
 - a) Burning like an oven
 - (1) **2 Thessalonians 1:7-8**
 - (2) **Matthew 3:12**
 - b) Set ablaze
 - c) All consuming
2. His people purified & healed
 - a) Who are His? Those who fear (worship) His name
 - b) Righteousness is your healing
 - c) Your Healing produces joy
 - (1) Remember your condition, your stance
 - (2) **2 Peter 1:1-2**
 - d) In present difficulties, if you lack joy, revisit your righteousness
3. His justice displayed
 - a) Through His people
 - b) By His power
 - c) For His renown

B. In the Mean Time (vv.4-6)

1. Obey the Word
 - a) Remember
 - (1) "Remember" is an imperative
 - (2) The Law of Moses
 - b) Law & Grace
 - (1) Reminded people of God's righteous requirements and their inability to meet those requirements
 - (2) In the law is goodness (**Romans 7:9-8:2**)
2. Look for His Coming
 - a) Messenger
 - (1) This is the close of the Old Testament
 - (a) **Matthew 11:11-15**
 - (b) **Luke 1:14-17**
 - (2) God's promise to make for Himself a covenant people is the same
 - b) Message
 - (1) Redemption
 - (2) Restoration

C. Application

1. The Word
 - a) Studied
 - b) Prayed
 - c) Applied
 - d) Displayed (communion)
2. The Kingdom
 - a) Live like this world isn't home
 - (1) Don't grow weary
 - (2) Worship rightly
 - b) Promote eternal kingdom
 - (1) Remind each other of these things
 - (2) Know His greatness
 - c) SUMMER FOCUS
 - (1) Available online this week...
 - (2) Read the Bible (reading plan for summer)
 - (3) Lead the home (catechism / family worship plan)
 - (4) Pray for the world (operation world prayer guide)
 - (5) Wait on the Lord (find a way to remind each other daily the Lord is coming)