

DO YOUR JOB! ~ Malachi 2:1-9

→ Scripture Reading - Romans 2:17-24

SERIOUS WARNING TO PRIESTS ~ Malachi 2:1-4

[1] "And now this admonition is for you, O priests. [2] If you do not listen, and if you do not set your heart to honor my name," says the Lord Almighty, "I will send a curse upon you, and I will curse your blessings. Yes, I have already cursed them, because you have not set your heart to honor me.

Implications in the IF statements: (NIV App Com)

- you do NOT Obey
- you do NOT Even Care

Deuteronomy 28:15 & 20 (ESV) [15] "But if you will not obey the voice of the Lord your God or be careful to do all his commandments and his statutes that I command you today, then all these curses shall come upon you and overtake you. ...[20] The Lord will send on you curses, confusion, and frustration in all that you undertake to do, until you are destroyed and perish quickly on account of the evil of your deeds, because you have forsaken me.

[3] "Because of you I will rebuke your descendants; I will spread on your faces the offal from your festival sacrifices, and you will be carried off with it. [4] And you will know that I have sent you this admonition so that my covenant with Levi may continue," says the Lord Almighty.

APPLICATION

A Heart Set apart to Honor God...

- knows Life is about the Lord NOT us
- lives with a Sense GOD in everything they do
- will Give up ANY personal claim to Glory
- Recognizes Faithfulness to God is Essential

Romans 6:19-22 (NIV) I put this in human terms because you are weak in your natural selves. Just as you used to offer the parts of your body in slavery to impurity and to ever-increasing wickedness, so now offer them in slavery to righteousness leading to holiness. [20] When you were slaves to sin, you were free from the control of righteousness. [21] What benefit did you reap at that time from the things you are now ashamed of? Those things result in death! [22] But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves to God, the benefit you reap leads to holiness, and the result is eternal life.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF PRIESTS ~ Malachi 2:5-7

[5] "My covenant was with him, a covenant of life and peace, and I gave them to him; this called for reverence and he revered me and stood in awe of my name. [6] True instruction was in his mouth and nothing false was found on his lips. He walked with me in peace and uprightness, and turned many from sin. [7] "For the lips of a priest ought to preserve knowledge, and from his mouth men should seek instruction--because he is the messenger of the Lord Almighty.

Lord of Hosts - "Hosts" means great numbers of Armies, Angels, or Stars. Malachi wants us to see and feel that our Father in heaven has INFINITE authority in the universe. He can wield any and all armies on earth to accomplish his purposes among the nations whether they know it or not. He has myriads of angels who do his bidding flawlessly and never fail in their errands. And he has appointed every star in the universe its position. He holds them in place - trillions of them - and calls them ALL by name. ...It is on the altar of this God that the priests were offering animals that were sick, blind, and lame. ~ J. Piper

APPLICATION

Essentials of God Honoring Ministry: (P. Apple)

- AWE and Reverence for God vs. 5
- Teaching Truth vs. 6
- Purity of Life vs. 6
- Intimacy with God vs. 6
- Turn people Away from Sin vs. 6
- Train next Generation vs. 7

GOD'S CURSE ON THE PRIESTS ~ Malachi 2:8-9

[8] But you have turned from THE WAY and by your teaching have caused many to stumble; you have violated the covenant with Levi," says the Lord Almighty.

Violated the Covenant by:

- Refusing to Teach the Truth
- Sacrificing Forbidden Animals

[9] "So I have caused you to be despised and humiliated before all the people, because you have not followed my ways but have shown partiality in matters of the law."

TAKE AWAY ??

→ **There is always someone is Watching**

Romans 2:23-24 (NLT) You are so proud of knowing the law, but you dishonor God by breaking it.
[24] No wonder the Scriptures say, "The Gentiles blaspheme the name of God because of you."