

GOD - FAITHFUL AND UNCHANGING ~ Malachi 2:17-3:6

→ Scripture Reading 1 Peter 1:6-7, James 1:2-4, Hebrews 12:7,10-11

YOU HAVE WEARIED GOD? ~ Malachi 2:17

[2:17] You have wearied the Lord with your words. "How have we wearied him?" you ask. By saying, "All who do evil are good in the eyes of the Lord, and he is pleased with them" or "Where is the God of justice?"

False Charges Against God... (Evangelical Com.)

- evil and good are the same to Him
- He is pleased with evil
- He is Not Just

Haggai 2:9 (NIV) 'The glory of this present house will be greater than the glory of the former house,' says the Lord Almighty. 'And in this place I will grant peace,' declares the Lord Almighty."

Luke 2:29-32 (NIV) "Sovereign Lord, as you have promised, you now dismiss your servant in peace. [30] For my eyes have seen your salvation, [31] which you have prepared in the sight of all people, [32] **a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.**"

APPLICATION (ESV Study Bible Notes)

Isaiah 40:28 (NIV) Do you not know? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. **He will NOT grow tired or weary**, and his understanding no one can fathom.

Psalms 78:40-41 (NLT) Oh, how often they rebelled against him in the wilderness and GRIEVED HIS HEART in that dry wasteland. [41] Again and again they **TESTED GOD'S PATIENCE** and PROVOKED the Holy One of Israel.

How do we weary God?

- by Deliberate Disobedience
- by Quenching the Spirit (1 Thes. 5:19)
- by Constant Complaining
- by saying God does NOT answer Prayer
- by Grieving the Spirit (Eph. 4:30)

THE MESSENGER OF THE COVENANT IS COMING ~ Malachi 3:1-4

[3:1] "See, I will send my messenger, who will prepare the way before me. Then suddenly the Lord you are seeking will come to his temple; the messenger of the covenant, whom you desire, will come," says the Lord Almighty. [2] But who can endure the day of his coming? Who can stand when he appears? For he will be like a refiner's fire or a launderer's soap. [3] He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver; he will purify the Levites and refine them like gold and silver. Then the Lord will have men who will bring offerings in righteousness, [4] and the offerings of Judah and Jerusalem will be acceptable to the Lord, as in days gone by, as in former years.

APPLICATION

Hebrews 12:7 (NIV) Endure hardship as discipline; God is treating you as sons. For what son is not disciplined by his father?

Hebrews 12:10-11 (NIV) Our fathers disciplined us for a little while as they thought best; but God disciplines us for our good, that we may share in his holiness. [11] No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it.

God's Discipline - His Refining Fire is...

- for OUR good
- so we can share in His holiness
- never pleasant
- always painful
- ALWAYS produces a Harvest of godliness and peace

I WILL COME IN JUDGMENT ~ Malachi 3:5-6

[5] "So I will come near to you for judgment. I will be quick to testify against sorcerers, adulterers and perjurers, against those who defraud laborers of their wages, who oppress the widows and the fatherless, and deprive aliens of justice, but do not fear me," says the Lord Almighty. [6] "I the Lord do not change. So you, O descendants of Jacob, are not destroyed.

Psalm 89:31-34 (NASU) If they violate My statutes And do not keep My commandments, [32] Then I will punish their transgression with the rod And their iniquity with stripes. [33] "But I will not break off My lovingkindness from him, Nor deal falsely in My faithfulness. [34] "My covenant I will not violate, Nor will I alter the utterance of My lips.

APPLICATION (Adapted from - J. Piper)

Romans 3:23 (NIV) ...all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

Ephesians 2:8-9 (NIV) For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith--and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God-- [9] not by works, so that no one can boast.

TAKE AWAY ?? (Adapted from - J. Piper)

The REFINERS Fire

- ALWAYS to Purifies us
- NEVER to Destroys us
- is NEVER painless

Two ways that the Refiners Fire Comes into our Lives

1 - The Fire of Affliction

1 Peter 1:6-7 (NIV) ...now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. [7] These have come so that your faith--of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire--may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.

James 1:2-4 (NIV) Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, [3] because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. [4] Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.

2 - The Fire of Intentional Self-Denial

Colossians 3:5 (NIV) Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry.

Galatians 5:24 (ESV) And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.

Romans 6:11-12 (NIV) In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but ALIVE TO GOD in Christ Jesus. [12] Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its evil desires.