

THE LAST WORD ~ Malachi 4:1-6

→ Scripture Reading - Malachi 3:14-17

TWO SIDES OF JUDGMENT ~ Malachi 4:1-3

[1] "Surely THE DAY is coming; it will burn like a furnace. All the arrogant and every evildoer will be stubble, and that day that is coming will set them on fire," says the Lord Almighty. "Not a root or a branch will be left to them. [2] But for you who revere my name, the sun of righteousness will rise with healing in its wings. And you will go out and leap like calves released from the stall. [3] Then you will trample down the wicked; they will be ashes under the soles of your feet on THE DAY when I do these things," says the Lord Almighty.

APPLICATION (1st)

Gal. 4:4-5 (ESV) But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, [5] to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons.

APPLICATION (2nd)

Matthew 7:23 (NIV) Then I will tell them plainly, 'I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!'

Romans 10:9-10, 13 (ESV) [9] ...if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. [10] For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved. ...[13] For "everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."

→ When you stand before God will it be as your Judge or as your Father?

APPLICATION (3rd)

1 Corinthians 9:24, 27 (NLT) [24] Don't you realize that in a race everyone runs, but only one person gets the prize? So run to win! ...[27] I discipline my body like an athlete, training it to do what it should. Otherwise, I fear that after preaching to others I myself might be disqualified.

OBSERVATIONS:

- Competing Against the Forces of Evil
- Discipline ourselves FOR Godliness
- Run with Purpose
- Disqualified from the Rewards
- All of LIFE is the RACE

1 Corinthians 6:12 (ESV) "All things are lawful for me," but not all things are helpful. "All things are lawful for me," but I will not be enslaved by anything.

Romans 8:12-15 (NLT) ...dear brothers and sisters, you have no obligation to do what your sinful nature urges you to do. [13] For if you live by its dictates, you will die. But if through the power of the Spirit you **PUT TO DEATH the deeds of your sinful nature**, you will live. [14] For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. [15] So you have not received a spirit that makes you fearful slaves. Instead, you received God's Spirit when he adopted you as HIS OWN children. Now we call him, "Abba, Father."

LOOKING BACK AND LOOKING FORWARD ~ Malachi 4:4-6

[4] "REMEMBER the law of my servant Moses, the decrees and laws I gave him at Horeb for all Israel. [5] "See, I WILL SEND you the prophet Elijah before that great and dreadful DAY OF THE LORD comes. [6] He will turn the hearts of the fathers to their children, and the hearts of the children to their fathers; or else I will come and strike the land with a curse."

WAS JOHN THE BAPTIST ELIJAH?

- **John said he was NOT Elijah** - John 1:21
- **Prophecy about John** (quotes Mal. 3:1 & 4:6)
Luke 1:17 (NIV) And he will go on before the Lord, in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the fathers to their children and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous--to make ready a people prepared for the Lord."
- **Jesus said John was Elijah** - Matt 11:10-14, 17:12-13
Matt. 11:14 (NIV) And if you are willing to accept it, he is the Elijah who was to come.
- **John the Baptist is already dead** - Matt. 14:1-2
- **Elijah and Moses appear on Mount Transfiguration** - Matt 17
- **Elijah WILL Come he WILL Restore** - Matt 17:11
Matt. 17:11 (ESV) He answered, "Elijah does come, and he will restore all things.

Revelation 11:3,6 (NIV) [3] And I will give power to my two witnesses, and they will prophesy for 1,260 days, clothed in sackcloth." ...[6] These men have power to shut up the sky so that it will not rain during the time they are prophesying; and they have power to turn the waters into blood and to strike the earth with every kind of plague as often as they want.

TAKE AWAY ??

1 Thessalonians 4:16-18 (NASU) [16] For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. [17] Then we who are alive and remain will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we shall always be with the Lord. [18] Therefore comfort one another with these words.