



Series: Malachi – God’s Response to Fake Religion

Passage Malachi 2:17-3:6

Title: The Refiner’s Fire

Speaker: Pastor JC Cooper– 7/14/2019

Discussion Starter

Why do you think God’s judgement is not preached very much in churches today? How would you explain the purpose of God’s refining fire in your life to a non-believer?

Questioning God’s Character (Malachi 2:17-3:1)

- Why do you think the Israelites made statements like "Everyone who does evil *is* good in the sight of the LORD, And He delights in them," Or, "Where *is* the God of justice?" Read Psalm 73. Discuss the insights gained from this passage of scripture.
- What was the key element the Israelites held as proof that God delighted in everyone who did evil? How does this same false teaching and fake worship enter into the churches of our day?
- How does God respond to their accusations in Malachi 3:1? What truth is He trying to convey, and how is this one of the most important parts of our walk as Christians today?
- Who is the first messenger God sends? What does this messenger do? Read Matthew 3:3 and Isaiah 40:3-5. What additional information can we glean from these verses about this first messenger?
- Who is the second messenger? What does this messenger do?

God’s Refining Fire and Judgment (Malachi 3:2-6)

- What is different about this coming of the LORD of hosts and what does it point to?
- Explain the meaning and purpose of the first action stated in Malachi 3:2-3 for this coming? Who does this proclamation apply to?
- How can we experience His fire as refining and not consuming? What is life like in the refiner's fire? Read Hebrews 2:11, 12:5-8 and 1 Peter 1:6-7. How do these verses speak encouragement to you in your walk today as a Christian?
- What role does self-denial and planned neglect play in this refining process? How have you experienced the refining fire of the LORD in your life as it applies to self-denial and planned neglect?
- We observe in Malachi 3:5 that not all people will be refined in fire, some will be consumed in the fire. Who is included in this list? Do you think that this is an exhaustive list? What do they all have in common?
- What character traits would be present in the sons of Jacob in which God promises not to consume them?