

Lesson 5 Malachi 3:13-4:6

Ice breaker: What have you done that you thought was a lot of work but wondered what was the point?
Or Have you done something that was a lot of work and you knew it was worth all of the work you put in?

We ended last time with the hope of blessings that the Lord has given them if they bring the full tithe and are obedient. They would become a “land of delight”.

*** As you read through this section- circle the “the day”.**

V13- 14 Yet- here again we have the Lord’s question and the rebuttal of the people as we finish the book. What are the hard/harsh words the people have spoken? What attitude do they seem to show towards God?

What are other words for: “vain”-Zephaniah 1:12

“profit” –

“His charge”

“walking as in mourning” –was this an outward or inward mourning?

APP How are we to mourn/ feel sorrow over our sin? Isaiah 58:3-9, Matt 6:16-18

What is our hope 1 John 1:9, Hebrews 7:25, Romans 8:34

V 15 Who are the “we”? Who are the evildoers/arrogant? How do you think evildoers prosper and test God?

APP What are some ways we as Christians can put God to the test?

Let’s look back and see how the Israelites have been doing evil and testing God
1:6

1:7,12

2:9

2:11

2:17

3:7-9

The idea of the evil prospering is not a new thought!! Read Psalm 3:1-25, Psalm 10:1-5, Prov 11:21

Lesson 4 also talked about how the evil will be judged. The discussion on evil is a very broad subject. If you would like to do more research and study on the topic, the following article/lecture are very helpful.

Excellent article on evil: adornthegospel.com/2021/10/05/my-notes-on-r-c-sprouls-what-is-evil-where-did-it-come-from/ RC Sproul <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hzc7KuMj6o> What is Evil and where did it come from?

V16 Review from lesson 3 what “fear the Lord” means? What did some people do (end of verse as well) ?

“Remember our fear of God (an awe that produces a rest of heart) can defeat all other fears” Paul Tripp
Luke 12:4-7 Psalm 147:¹¹ No, the Lord’s delight is in those who fear him, those who put their hope in his unfailing love.

What three things did the Lord do?

- a. Deut.31:6
- b. Psalm 34:17-18, Lam 3:55-57
- c. Dan 12:1, **Luke 10:17-20**, Rev. 20:12

APP How can we as fellow believers encourage each other as the world around us works to bring us down? How can we encourage those around the world as they are persecuted and suffer greatly against the evil around them? John 17:16-21

V17 What will those who fear and honor the Lord be? Deut 26:18-19, 1 Peter 2:9

What will the Lord do?

When will this be?

V18 What will happen on this day? 1 Peter 3:12, Heb. 4:16, Matt 25:31-46, Romans 18:8-13

V4:1 Day of the Lord- Isa 13:6, Joel 2:11, 31

Who will be punished?

(notice the refining fire in 3:2 and the consuming fire in 4:1- Gatiss)

V4:2 What is the hope of those who fear the Lord? Psalm 84:11, Jeremiah 23:5-7, 1 Peter 5:6-7

We rest in Christ's resurrection that it is proof that He will come again just as He said. 1 Cor 15:19

V4:3 This can be a hard read as we pray for the lost. Thank the Lord it is not ours to judge but we trust in our almighty loving God who is the God of Justice Psalm 18:20-27

V4:4 Horeb is Sinai The Old Testament believers were under the covenant of Moses "The people of Malachi's day needed to stay under the supervision of their guardian Moses until Jesus arrived (Gal 3:24) Gatiss

How were people in the OT saved?

A common misconception about the Old Testament way of salvation is that Jews were saved by keeping the Law. But we know from Scripture that that is not true. Galatians 3:11 says, "Now it is evident that no one is justified before God by the law, for 'The righteous shall live by faith.'" Some might want to dismiss this passage as only applying to the New Testament, but Paul is quoting Habakkuk 2:4—salvation by faith, apart from the Law was an *Old Testament* principle. Paul taught that the purpose of the Law was to serve as a "tutor to bring us to Christ, that we might be justified by faith" (Galatians 3:24). Also, in Romans 3:20 Paul makes the point that keeping the Law did not save either Old or New Testament Jews because "no one will be declared righteous in his sight by observing the law." **The Law was never intended to save anyone; the purpose of the Law was to make us "conscious of sin."**

If the Old Testament way of salvation was not keeping the Law, then how were people saved? Fortunately, the answer to that question is easily found in Scripture, so there can be no doubt as to what was the Old Testament way of salvation. In Romans 4 the apostle Paul makes it very clear that the Old Testament way of salvation was the same as the New Testament way, **which is by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone.** To prove this, Paul points us to Abraham, who was saved by faith: "Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness" (Romans 4:3). Again, Paul quotes the Old Testament to prove his point—Genesis 15:6, this time. Abraham could not have been saved by keeping the Law, because he lived over 400 years before the Law was given! <https://www.gotquestions.org/Old-Testament-salvation.html>

APP Why is the Law still important today? 2 Timothy 3:15-17 **Romans 3:27-31 Ephesians 2:8-22**

God's law is a gift of his grace. God gave the children of Israel his law after he redeemed them out of slavery in Egypt. The law was not a means of achieving God's favor; he had already chosen to place his love on this group and had already demonstrated his willingness to unleash his almighty power for their welfare. They had been living in a pagan culture for 400 years and had no idea how to live to please the one who had given them their freedom. The giving of the law to the children of Israel was a sign of God's love and a tool for his grace.

It is a tool of grace on our lives as well as God uses his law to reveal and convict us of sin. God's commands reflect his holiness and describe what a holy life looks like. But we need to understand its limits. It has no power whatsoever to purchase for us acceptance with God and it has no power on its own to transform our hearts. **We are thankful for God's law as we celebrate his rescuing, forgiving, transforming and delivering grace.**

Everyday Gospel Paul D. Tripp

APP How were you taught the whole Bible as a child and youth? How important was the Bible in your home? When did you start to take the Bible seriously and know it truly is the Word of God- the Old and New Testament?

V4:5-6A Repeat from 3:1 - see Matthew 11:10-14

First Elijah-1 Kings 18:37

Second Elijah- Matthew 3:2-11, Luke 1:16-17 Miracle of John the Baptist's birth Luke 1:5-25

What was the role of John the Baptist?

Today- devout Jews keep an empty chair at their dinner table waiting for the messenger-Elijah to come

V6B "lest"=otherwise How does Malachi prophesy will happen if Israel does not turn their hearts ?

What are two-three things that you have learned from this study? What surprised you? What did you learn about God and His Word in this study?

Song: How Firm a Foundation

Cori's study on period of silence