

SERIES: "LAST...BUT NOT LEAST":

An In-Depth Study of MALACHI: the Final Prophet of the Old Testament Era-
PART XX - FINAL INSTALLMENT and review of Malachi

"TRUTH'S TO LIVE BY"

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 10th, 2009

I. In writing the Book of Romans, the Apostle Paul revealed that without doubt all the past TRUTH that has already been written in the OLD TESTAMENT, is profitable for NEW TESTAMENT Believers. (Romans 15:4)

II. Scripture is profitable in four ways:

1. It helps us LEARN about the past failures - and victories of those who have gone on before us;
2. It helps produce PATIENCE (ENDURANCE);
3. It helps produce COMFORT (ENCOURAGEMENT);
4. It gives the Believer HOPE (CONFIDENCE) that his/ her life is not being lived in vain.

III. APPLICATIONS FROM THE LESSONS IN MALACHI:

1. GOD'S LOVE

a. A MAJOR reason for God's choosing of both ISRAEL and the CHURCH was so that He might demonstrate His LOVE to the entire world!

b. Just like Israel, the Church is ALSO guilty of QUESTIONING God's love during times of extended TRIAL and LOSS.

2. SPIRITUAL Discernment

a. This is the one thing Israel's LEADERS lacked most of all

b. Through self-deception and "BLINDNESS", we become unable to discern how far we have drifted from a TRUE commitment to God.

3. SERVICE FOR GOD (The 4 A's of our SERVICE TO GOD)

a. A MBASSADORS in service

b. A ATTITUDE in service

c. A CTION in service

d. A ACCOUNTABILITY in service

4. The MARRIAGE RELATIONSHIP

a. The Marriage COVENANT

Note: TODAY far too many people view their marriage as a "CONTRACT" rather than a "COVENANT"

b. Mixed Marriages CONDAMNED

Note I: These were considered an "ABOMINATION" to God.

Note II: The concept of "unequally yoked" comes from

Deuteronomy 22 : 10 where the Israelite was commanded to NOT plow with an OX (a clean animal) AND an ASS (an unclean animal) because their NATURES and TEMPERAMENTS were incompatible and uncooperative for plowing.

c. MARRIAGE COMMITMENT

5. GIVING TO GOD

a. "ROBBING" GOD

Note: It is good to BEGIN giving with the tithe BUT both TESTAMENTS teach that our giving is NOT to be limited to the tithe.

b. REWARDS from God

Note: God challenges us ALL to put Him to the "TEST" in this one matter!

(Try me NOW!)
HERE WITH

6. REMEMBERING THE RIGHTEOUS

a. Those who serve God out of healthy fear HE calls His "JEWELS"

b. God records both the WORDS AND the NEEDS of the righteous in the "Book of REMEMBRANCE"

7. The MESSIANIC HOPE

a. His COMING

b. His CLEANSING

c. His CONDEMNATION

8. THE "DAY of the LORD"

a. This "day" will begin at the RAPTURE and will cover the time of TRIBULATION and will conclude with the GRAND WHITE THRONE Judgment

b. As the "SUN" of RIGHTEOUSNESS, Jesus will destroy the wicked BUT bring light and life to the RIGHTEOUS.

FINAL NOTE: Malachi's words would be the final AUTHENTIC voice of PROPHECY until JOHN the BAPTIST shattered the silence 400 years later with words each one of us MUST HEED:

"Repent, for the kingdom of HEAVEN is at hand" (Mt. 3:2)