

## Secure in God's Love

Dave Folkerts

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*Malachi 1:1-3* A prophecy: The word of the Lord to Israel through Malachi. **2** "I have loved you," says the Lord. "But you ask, 'How have you loved us?' "Was not Esau Jacob's brother?" declares the Lord. "Yet I have loved Jacob, **3** but Esau I have hated, and I have turned his hill country into a wasteland and left his inheritance to the desert jackals."

- Do you ever doubt God's love?
- God's love for us is shown by His grace
- Doubting God's love makes us question Him when bad happens

*Malachi 1:4-8* Edom may say, "Though we have been crushed, we will rebuild the ruins." But this is what the Lord Almighty says: "They may build, but I will demolish. They will be called the Wicked Land, a people always under the wrath of the Lord. **5** You will see it with your own eyes and say, 'Great is the Lord—even beyond the borders of Israel!' **6** "A son honors his father, and a slave his master. If I am a father, where is the honor due me? If I am a master, where is the respect due me?" says the Lord Almighty. "It is you priests who show contempt for my name. "But you ask, 'How have we shown contempt for your name?' **7** "By offering defiled food on my altar. "But you ask, 'How have we defiled you?' "By saying that the Lord's table is contemptible. **8** When you offer blind animals for sacrifice, is that not wrong? When you sacrifice lame or diseased animals, is that not wrong? Try offering them to your governor! Would he be pleased with you? Would he accept you?" says the Lord Almighty.

- Let's make sure we give God our best and He is our priority

*Malachi 1:9-11* "Now plead with God to be gracious to us. With such offerings from your hands, will he accept you?"—says the Lord Almighty. **10** "Oh, that one of you would shut the temple doors, so that you would not light useless fires on my altar! I am not pleased with you," says the Lord Almighty, "and I will accept no offering from your hands. **11** My name will be great among the nations, from where the sun rises to where it sets. In every place incense and pure offerings will be brought to me, because my name will be great among the nations," says the Lord Almighty.

*1 Samuel 15:22* But Samuel replied: "Does the Lord delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices as much as in obeying the Lord? To obey is better than sacrifice, and to heed is better than the fat of rams.

*Malachi 2:1-2* "And now, you priests, this warning is for you. **2** If you do not listen, and if you do not resolve to honor my name," says the Lord Almighty, "I will send a curse on you, and I will curse your blessings. Yes, I have already cursed them, because you have not resolved to honor me.

*James 3:1-2* Not many of you should become teachers, my fellow believers, because you know

that we who teach will be judged more strictly. We all stumble in many ways. Anyone who is never at fault in what they say is perfect, able to keep their whole body in check.

- Spiritual Leaders – we are to be examples of what God is like

*Malachi 2:7-12* “For the lips of a priest ought to preserve knowledge, because he is the messenger of the Lord Almighty and people seek instruction from his mouth. **8** But you have turned from the way and by your teaching have caused many to stumble; you have violated the covenant with Levi,” says the Lord Almighty. **9** “So I have caused you to be despised and humiliated before all the people, because you have not followed my ways but have shown partiality in matters of the law.” **10** Do we not all have one Father? Did not one God create us? Why do we profane the covenant of our ancestors by being unfaithful to one another? **11** Judah has been unfaithful. A detestable thing has been committed in Israel and in Jerusalem: Judah has desecrated the sanctuary the Lord loves by marrying women who worship a foreign god. **12** As for the man who does this, whoever he may be, may the Lord remove him from the tents of Jacob—even though he brings an offering to the Lord Almighty.

- Marriage is all about unity

*Amos 3:3* Do two walk together unless they have agreed to do so?

*Malachi 2:13-14* Another thing you do: You flood the Lord’s altar with tears. You weep and wail because he no longer looks with favor on your offerings or accepts them with pleasure from your hands. **14** You ask, “Why?” It is because the Lord is the witness between you and the wife of your youth. You have been unfaithful to her, though she is your partner, the wife of your marriage covenant.

- **Covenant:** Give-up our rights and accept our responsibilities
- **Contract:** Protect our rights and limit our responsibilities
- Am I honoring God by keeping my marriage covenant?

*Malachi 2:15-17* Has not the one God made you? You belong to him in body and spirit. And what does the one God seek? Godly offspring. So be on your guard, and do not be unfaithful to the wife of your youth. **16** “The man who hates and divorces his wife,” says the Lord, the God of Israel, “does violence to the one he should protect,” says the Lord Almighty. So be on your guard, and do not be unfaithful. **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?”

- Fear God – Sin is serious, don’t excuse or make light of it
- Text **YES** to 321.574.6970 if you have chosen to accept Jesus as your Lord and Savior.