

TAKING SERIOUSLY THE PREACHING OF GOD'S WORD

(Malachi 2:1-9)

I. INTRODUCTION

II. SUPERScription (1:1)

III. GOD'S APPEAL TO ISRAEL BASED ON THEIR PAST RELATIONSHIP (1:2-5)

IV. GOD'S MESSAGE TO THE PRIESTS REGARDING SACRIFICE AND WORSHIP (1:6-14)

V. GOD'S MESSAGE TO THE PRIESTS REGARDING HIS WORD (2:1-9)

1. The ministers of God's Word were to "*hear*" in the sense to _____ and _____; they were to take what God was saying to _____. (vv. 1-2a)

2. The priests' blessed the people through prayers (Num. 6:22-27), and they received " *blessings* " in the form of _____ benefits as compensation; God promised He would bring down the _____ of the Mosaic Law for their _____. (v. 2b, cf., Deut. 27:15-26; 28:15-68; Prov. 3:33)

3. Even under Grace, a _____ to personally appropriate God's Word will always have _____.

4. God promised to _____ their descendants, and to "*spread refuse*" on their _____; the term "*refuse*" referred to the waste parts of the sacrificial animal, especially the undigested _____ of the stomach. (v. 3)

5. The Lord established an _____ with the descendants of Levi to minister before Him as priests. (vv. 4-5, cf., Exod. 32:25-29; Num. 25:1-13; Jer. 33:17-22; Ezek. 44:10-15)

* Who is the priest that Malachi is most likely referring to in verses 5-6?

* Who exemplified this ministry of a faithful Levitical priest who taught the people?

6. The ministry of the Levite involved not only temple duties, sacrifice and offerings but _____ and _____. (v. 7 cf. Lev. 10:10-11; Deut. 17:18; 2 Chron. 15:3)

7. The consequences of the priests' dereliction of their duties...

a. caused them to _____ from the _____ (v. 8a)

b. caused many _____ to _____ (v. 8b)

c. corrupted the _____ of Levi (v. 8c)

8. As a result, these calloused and corrupt priests would face _____ discreditation and humiliation at the _____ of _____. (v. 9)

* How does this apply to you under Grace?