

“IS IT WORTH IT TO LOVE AND SERVE THE LORD?”

(Malachi 3:13-18)

VII. GOD’S APPEAL TO ISRAEL BASED ON THEIR FUTURE RELATIONSHIP (3:1-4:6)

- A. God Promised His People A Coming Judgment (3:1-5)
- B. God Does Not Change, this is Why Judah is Not Consumed (3:6)
- C. God’s Charge of Disobedience (3:7-9)
- D. God’s Remedy and Promise of Blessings (3:10-12)
- E. The Cynical Reaction of Unbelief that God Rejects (3:13-15)

1. Judah’s words towards the Lord were _____ and they reflected an attitude of _____ and serious _____. (v. 13)

2. A carnal, faithless perspective sees _____ in serving the Lord; these Jews were doing it out of drudgery, and their _____ were _____ in it. (v. 14)

3. Judah’s sarcastic taunt was basically, “*Where is the God of justice?*” In the minds of the people the justice of God had been _____, the proud and the wicked seemed _____ rather than _____. (v. 15, cf. 2:17)

F. The Respectful Response of Faith that God Rewards (3:16-18)

1. The word “*then*” (’āz) which opens v. 16 is emphatic, indicating that the action described in this verse was a _____ of the _____ confrontation in verses 13-15.

2. A remnant of Jews in post-exilic Judah “_____” the prophet’s rebuke; their conversation was probably one of exhortation to each other regarding _____. (v. 16a)

* Was their reverence and respect the desired response from Malachi's prophetic word?

* Is there any difference with believers today?

3. Malachi mentions that the Lord was _____ intently to what these believers were talking about; this underscored Yahweh's deep _____ in the Hebrew faithful and His readied _____ to notice and respond to the words of the righteous. (v. 16b)

* What is this "*book of remembrance*" mentioned in v. 16?

* How can a believer remain faithful to God in a faithless world?

4. In v. 17 Malachi has abbreviated the _____ formula (*'I will be their God, and they will be My people'*); this expression is God's assurance that His covenant promises to Israel remain _____ and they will be _____ in some future time.

5. In "the Day of the Lord" Israel will be able to see God protect His "_____, " while at the same time pouring out His wrath on the "_____." (v. 18)

* How can you personally apply this truth today?