

A Call to Trust Our Unchanging God Malachi 2:17-3:12

"I the LORD do not change. . . ." Malachi 3:6a (New International Version)

Whatever is good and perfect comes to us from God above, who created all heaven's lights. Unlike them, he never changes . . . James 1:17 (New Living Translation)

- **Quality #1: GOD IS A JUST GOD.**

You have wearied the LORD with your words. But you say, "How have we wearied him?" By saying, "Everyone who does evil is good in the sight of the LORD, and he delights in them." Or by asking, "Where is the God of justice?" Malachi 2:17 (English Standard Version)

See Psalm 73:2-5.

God's justice = God always acts in accordance with what is right, and He Himself is the standard of what is right.

How is God just? There will be an ultimate accounting or judgment when the Messiah comes.

"Look! I am sending my messenger, and he will prepare the way before me. Then the Lord you are seeking will suddenly come to his Temple. The messenger of the covenant, whom you look for so eagerly, is surely coming," says the LORD of Heaven's Armies. ²"But who will be able to endure it when he comes? Who will be able to stand and face him when he appears? For he will be like a blazing fire that refines metal, or like a strong soap that bleaches clothes. Malachi 3:1-2 (NLT)

See Joel 2:11; Revelation 6:16-17.

He will sit and judge like a refiner of silver, watching closely as the dross is burned away. He will purify the Levites, refining them like gold or silver, so that they may once again offer acceptable sacrifices to the LORD. ⁴Then once more the LORD will accept the offerings brought to him by the people of Judah and Jerusalem, as he did in former times. ⁵At that time I will put you on trial. I will be a ready witness against all sorcerers and adulterers and liars. I will speak against those who cheat employees of their wages, who oppress widows and orphans, or who deprive the foreigners living among you of justice, for these people do not fear me," says the LORD Almighty. Malachi 3:3-5 (NLT)

See 1 Corinthians 1:8; Psalm 73:17b-19; 2 Thessalonians 1:7b-9.

- **Quality #2: GOD IS A FAITHFUL GOD.**

See Psalm 89:34-37.

Three Ways That God is Faithful

- Faithful in His call to repent

"I the LORD do not change. So you, O descendants of Jacob, are not destroyed. ⁷Ever since the time of your forefathers you have turned away from my decrees and have not kept them. Return to me, and I will return to you," says the LORD Almighty. "But you ask, 'How are we to return?'" Malachi 3:6-7 (NIV)

- Faithful in His challenge to believers

"But you ask, 'How are we to return?' ⁸"Will a man rob God? Yet you rob me. "But you ask, 'How do we rob you?' "In tithes and offerings. ⁹You are under a curse—the whole nation of you—because you are robbing me. ¹⁰Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. . . ." Malachi 3:7c-10a (NIV)

"How terrible it will be for you teachers of religious law and you Pharisees. Hypocrites! For you are careful to tithe even the tiniest part of your income, but you ignore the important things of the law—justice, mercy, and faith. You should tithe, yes, but you should not leave undone the more important things. Matthew 23:23 (NLT)

- Faithful to give and keep His promise

"Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, . . . Test me in this," says the LORD Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it. ¹¹I will prevent pests from devouring your crops, and the vines in your fields will not cast their fruit," says the LORD Almighty. ¹²"Then all the nations will call you blessed, for yours will be a delightful land," says the LORD Almighty. Malachi 3:10-12 (NIV)

But as for me, my feet had almost slipped; I had nearly lost my foothold. ³For I envied the arrogant when I saw the prosperity of the wicked. ⁴They have no struggles; their bodies are healthy and strong. ⁵They are free from the burdens common to man; they are not plagued by human ills. Psalm 73:2-5 (NIV)

The LORD thunders at the head of his army; his forces are beyond number, and mighty are those who obey his command. The day of the LORD is great; it is dreadful. Who can endure it? Joel 2:11 (NIV)

They called to the mountains and the rocks, “Fall on us and hide us from the face of him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb! ¹⁷For the great day of their wrath has come, and who can stand?” Revelation 6:16-17 (NIV)

He will . . . keep you from all blame on the great day when our Lord Jesus Christ returns. 1 Corinthians 1:8 (NLT)

Then I understood their final destiny. ¹⁸Surely . . . you cast them down to ruin. ¹⁹How suddenly are they destroyed. Psalm 73:17b-19 (NIV)

This will happen when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven in blazing fire with his powerful angels. ⁸He will punish those who do not know God and do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. ⁹They will be punished with everlasting destruction and shut out from the presence of the Lord and from the majesty of his power . . . 2 Thessalonians 1:7b-9 (NIV)

No, I will not break my covenant; I will not take back a single word I said. ³⁵I have sworn an oath to David, and in my holiness I cannot lie: ³⁶His dynasty will go on forever; his throne is as secure as the sun, ³⁷as eternal as the moon, my faithful witness in the sky!” Psalm 89:34-37 (NLT)