

**Sermon Title:** Blessing  
**Sermon Series:** Malachi  
**Scripture:** Malachi 2:17-3:12  
**Speaker:** Pastor Mike Barnhart



### **Malachi 2:17–3:12 ESV**

17 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?”

1 “Behold, I send my messenger, and he will prepare the way before me. And the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple; and the messenger of the covenant in whom you delight, behold, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts. 2 But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner’s fire and like fullers’ soap. 3 He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the sons of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, and they will bring offerings in righteousness to the LORD. 4 Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years.

5 “Then I will draw near to you for judgment. I will be a swift witness against the sorcerers, against the adulterers, against those who swear falsely, against those who oppress the hired worker in his wages, the widow and the fatherless, against those who thrust aside the sojourner, and do not fear me, says the LORD of hosts.

6 “For I the LORD do not change; therefore you, O children of Jacob, are not consumed. 7 From the days of your fathers you have turned aside from my statutes and have not kept them. Return to me, and I will return to you, says the LORD of hosts. But you say, ‘How shall we return?’ 8 Will man rob God?

Yet you are robbing me. But you say, 'How have we robbed you?' In your tithes and contributions. 9 You are cursed with a curse, for you are robbing me, the whole nation of you. 10 Bring the full tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. And thereby put me to the test, says the LORD of hosts, if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you a blessing until there is no more need. 11 I will rebuke the devourer for you, so that it will not destroy the fruits of your soil, and your vine in the field shall not fail to bear, says the LORD of hosts. 12 Then all nations will call you blessed, for you will be a land of delight, says the LORD of hosts.

**People are calling 'good' that which is 'evil.'**

### **Isaiah 43:24 ESV**

24 You have not bought me sweet cane with money, or satisfied me with the fat of your sacrifices.

But you have burdened me with your sins; you have wearied me with your iniquities.

### **Malachi 3:11–12 ESV**

11 I will rebuke the devourer for you, so that it will not destroy the fruits of your soil, and your vine in the field shall not fail to bear, says the LORD of hosts. 12 Then all nations will call you blessed, for you will be a land of delight, says the LORD of hosts.

### **Malachi 3:2–4 ESV**

2 But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap. 3 He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the sons of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, and they will bring offerings in righteousness to the LORD. 4 Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years.

### **1 Peter 2:5–6 ESV**

5 you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. 6 For it stands in Scripture:

“Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone,

a cornerstone chosen and precious,

and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.”

### **1 Peter 2:9 ESV**

9 But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

**Refinement isn't always the most comfortable experience.**

Because God blesses His people, embrace the \_\_\_\_\_ of Christ.

## **1. Embrace the \_\_\_\_\_.**

### **Malachi 3:1 ESV**

1 “Behold, I send my messenger, and he will prepare the way before me. And the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple; and the messenger of the covenant in whom you delight, behold, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts.

### **Matthew 11:10 ESV**

10 This is he of whom it is written, “ ‘Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way before you.’

### **Mark 1:2 ESV**

2 As it is written in Isaiah the prophet, “Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way,

### **Luke 7:27 ESV**

27 This is he of whom it is written, “ ‘Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way before you.’

### **Acts 2:36 ESV**

36 Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified.”

It was an everyday battle & fight with \_\_\_\_\_ VS. \_\_\_\_\_ &  
\_\_\_\_\_ the Lord.

**We need to know that we're sinners.**

**2. Embrace God's \_\_\_\_\_.**

### **Malachi 3:3–5 ESV**

3 He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the sons of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, and they will bring offerings in righteousness to the LORD. 4 Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years.

5 “Then I will draw near to you for judgment. I will be a swift witness against the sorcerers, against the adulterers, against those who swear falsely, against those who oppress the hired worker in his wages, the widow and the fatherless, against those who thrust aside the sojourner, and do not fear me, says the LORD of hosts.

**God “will draw near to you for judgment.”**

### **3. Embrace \_\_\_\_\_.**

#### **Malachi 3:8–10 ESV**

8 Will man rob God? Yet you are robbing me. But you say, 'How have we robbed you?' In your tithes and contributions. 9 You are cursed with a curse, for you are robbing me, the whole nation of you. 10 Bring the full tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. And thereby put me to the test, says the LORD of hosts, if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you a blessing until there is no more need.

#### **A. The tithe is \_\_\_\_\_.**

#### **Leviticus 27:30 ESV**

30 "Every tithe of the land, whether of the seed of the land or of the fruit of the trees, is the LORD's; it is holy to the LORD.

#### **B. The tithe is the beginning of \_\_\_\_\_.**

#### **Luke 18:22 ESV**

22 When Jesus heard this, he said to him, "One thing you still lack. Sell all that you have and distribute to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me."

“That is very good and proves you’ve been saved.” – Luke 19

The religious leaders tithe—which Jesus calls good. But Jesus also indicates there is more they should have given. – Luke 11

## **2 Corinthians 9:6–8 ESV**

6 The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. 7 Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. 8 And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work.

## **Malachi 3:10 ESV**

10 Bring the full tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. And thereby put me to the test, says the LORD of hosts, if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you a blessing until there is no more need.

**Will you embrace the refinement of Christ?**