

A Heart of Worship: Worship in Truth
Malachi 2:1-9

SUPPORT SCRIPTURE:

Hebrews 4:14-16 (NIV): ¹⁴Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has ascended into heaven, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. ¹⁵For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet he did not sin. ¹⁶Let us then approach God’s throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.

MAIN SCRIPTURE:

Malachi 2:1-2 (NIV): “And now, you priests, this warning is for you. ²If 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.”

SUPPORT SCRIPTURE:

James 3:1 (NIV): Not many of you should become teachers, my fellow believers, because you know that we who teach will be judged more strictly.

resolve = “set your heart”

MAIN POINT:

Set your heart to honor the Lord.

MAIN SCRIPTURE:

Malachi 2:3-4 (NIV): ³“Because of you I will rebuke your descendants; I will smear on your faces the dung from your festival sacrifices, and you will be carried off with it. ⁴And you will know that I have sent you this warning so that my covenant with Levi may continue,” says the LORD Almighty.

MAIN POINT:

Set your heart to honor the Lord.

MAIN SCRIPTURE:

Malachi 2:5-7 (NIV): ⁵“My covenant was with him, a covenant of life and peace, and I gave them to him; this called for reverence and he revered me and stood in awe of my name. ⁶True instruction was in his mouth and nothing false was found on his lips. He walked with me in peace and uprightness, and turned many from sin. ⁷“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.”

SUPPORT SCRIPTURE:

Luke 12:48 (NIV): “From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded; and from the one who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked.”

Are you leading people away from sin or toward sin?

MAIN POINT:

Set your heart to honor the Lord.

MAIN SCRIPTURE:

Malachi 2:8-9 (NIV): 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.”

Instead of turning people from sin, the priests were turning people to sin.

SUPPORT SCRIPTURE:

Matthew 18:6 (NIV): ⁶“If anyone causes one of these little ones—those who believe in me—to stumble, it would be better for them to have a large millstone hung around their neck and to be drowned in the depths of the sea.

MAIN POINT:

Set your heart to honor the Lord.

LORD’S SUPPER SCRIPTURE:

1 Corinthians 11:23-28 (NIV): ²³ For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, ²⁴ and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, “This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me.” ²⁵ In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me.” ²⁶ For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes. ²⁷ So then, whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of sinning against the body and blood of the Lord. ²⁸ Everyone ought to examine themselves before they eat of the bread and drink from the cup.