

**A Heart of Worship: Worship by Trusting God's Justice**  
***Malachi 2:17-3:5***

**MAIN POINT:**      **Don't doubt God's justice.**

**MAIN SCRIPTURE:**

**Malachi 2:17 (NIV):** <sup>17</sup>You have wearied the LORD with your words. "How have we wearied him?" you ask. By saying, "All who do evil are good in the eyes of the LORD, and he is pleased with them" or "Where is the God of justice?"

**weary** = exasperated; annoyed; agitated

**Through their words and actions, they were accusing God of endorsing evil and failing to punish it.**

**Don't doubt God's justice.**

**MAIN SCRIPTURE:**

**Malachi 3:1 (NIV):** <sup>1</sup>"I will send my messenger, who will prepare the way before me. Then suddenly the Lord you are seeking will come to his temple; the messenger of the covenant, whom you desire, will come," says the LORD Almighty.

**Isaiah 40:3**

**SUPPORT SCRIPTURE:**

**Matthew 3:3 (NIV):** This is he who was spoken of through the prophet Isaiah: "A voice of one calling in the wilderness, 'Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.'"

**MAIN POINT:**      **Don't doubt God's justice.**

**MAIN SCRIPTURE:**

**Malachi 3:2-4 (NIV):** <sup>2</sup>But who can endure the day of his coming? Who can stand when he appears? For he will be like a refiner's fire or a launderer's soap. <sup>3</sup>He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver; he will purify the Levites and refine them like gold and silver. Then the LORD will have men who will bring

offerings in righteousness,<sup>4</sup> and the offerings of Judah and Jerusalem will be acceptable to the LORD, as in days gone by, as in former years.

### **Why will he come like a refiner's fire?**

#### **SUPPORT SCRIPTURE:**

**Titus 3:5-7 (NIV):**<sup>5</sup> he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit,<sup>6</sup> whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior,<sup>7</sup> so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life.

### **What is life like in the Refiner's fire?**

#### **SUPPORT SCRIPTURE:**

**Romans 8:28-29 (NIV):**<sup>28</sup> And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.<sup>29</sup> For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters.

#### **SUPPORT SCRIPTURE:**

**Hebrews 12:7-8 (NIV):**<sup>7</sup> Endure hardship as discipline; God is treating you as his children. For what children are not disciplined by their father?<sup>8</sup> If you are not disciplined—and everyone undergoes discipline—then you are not legitimate, not true sons and daughters at all.

**MAIN POINT:      Don't doubt God's justice.**

#### **MAIN SCRIPTURE:**

**Malachi 3:5 (NIV):**<sup>5</sup> "So I will come to put you on trial. I will be quick to testify against sorcerers, adulterers and perjurers, against those who defraud laborers of their wages, who oppress the widows and the fatherless, and deprive the foreigners among you of justice, but do not fear me," says the LORD Almighty.

#### **MAIN SCRIPTURE:**

**Malachi 3:6**<sup>6</sup> "I the LORD do not change. So you, the descendants of Jacob, are not destroyed.

**SUPPORT SCRIPTURE:**

**Jude 1:24-25 (NIV):** <sup>24</sup>To him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you before his glorious presence without fault and with great joy— <sup>25</sup>to the only God our Savior be glory, majesty, power and authority, through Jesus Christ our Lord, before all ages, now and forevermore! Amen.