

TOUGH LOVE

HARSH BUT GLORIOUS AWAKENINGS FOR A PEOPLE ON THE BRINK

— A STUDY ON MALACHI —



Part 6 – 2:1-9

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“Everything rises and falls on leadership”

John Maxwell

“Not many of you should become teachers, my fellow believers, because you know that we who teach will be judged more strictly.”

James 3:1

Godly Leaders - Pastors/Priests

- Give true instruction – v.6
 - Walk with God – v.6
- Turn many back from sin – v.6

Godly Leaders - Pastors/Priests

- Preserve knowledge – v.7
- Serve as a resource of wise instruction
– v.7
- Are messengers of God – v.7

Ungodly Leaders - Pastors/Priests

- Turn aside from the way – v.8
- Influence many to stumble – v.8
- Corrupt what was supposed to be their sacred trust – v.8

What has happened and is happening in our churches. Leaders/teachers ...

1. “turn from the way” – v.8

2. “show partiality in the instruction” –
v.9

“Turn from the way” = what we believe about God’s revelation (the Bible)

When God speaks, His message is:

1. Reliable – nothing erroneous or false in it
2. Authoritative – to be followed and obeyed absolutely

We typically “turn from the way” through
a progressive process ...

1. Question the authority and reliability
2. Doubt the authority and reliability
3. Deny the authority and reliability
4. Disobey

The flow of the influence of this process
passes from ... to

1. Seminaries to pulpits
2. Pulpits to pews
3. Pews to population

“Show partiality” = how we handle God’s
revelation

Orthodox to out of the box

“When the plain sense of Scripture makes common sense, seek no other sense; therefore, take every word at its primary, ordinary, usual, literal meaning unless the facts of the immediate context, studied in the light of related passages and axiomatic and fundamental truths, indicate clearly otherwise.” –

Dr. David L. Cooper (1886-1965),
founder of The Biblical Research Society

Showing partiality = making our
interpretations fit my preferences or the
culture's pressures

Twisting scripture to make it fit instead of
repenting to make me/us fit