

TOUGH LOVE

HARSH BUT GLORIOUS AWAKENINGS FOR A PEOPLE ON THE BRINK

————— A STUDY ON MALACHI —————



Part 9 – 2:17; 3:13-4:1

“Clearing Up the Confusion”

Right and Wrong

Justice and Injustice

Judgment and Blessing

Isaiah 5:20

“Woe to those who call evil good
and good evil,
who put darkness for light
and light for darkness,
who put bitter for sweet
and sweet for bitter.”

1. There are moral absolute standards
2. God sets those standards – right and
wrong
3. God has revealed those standards to
us

4. When we re-define or otherwise change His standards, we are guilty of slandering Almighty God, sitting in judgment of God and therefore, blasphemy, having made ourselves gods and the judge of God.

5. We can't judge God or His ways according to our sense of timing – or our present frame of reference

- “It’s futile to serve God. What do we gain?” – v.14
- “the arrogant are blessed” “evildoers prosper” – v.14
- Why do bad things happen to good people?
 - I’ve tried to serve God and yet ...

Psalm 73

Psalm 73

“Surely the day is coming” – 4:1: 3:18

Living in the fear of the Lord and living
to honor the Lord is absolutely the way
to go – 3:16,17

To see the circumstances of our lives correctly – everything, including good and evil, justice and injustice, judgment and blessing – we have to see it all from an eternal perspective.

“ ... see the distinction between the
righteous and the wicked, between
those who serve God and those who do
not” 3:18

Those who trust and follow God:

3:16,17; 4:2

Those who do not:

4:1,3

As you evaluate your life – whether you will intentionally trust and live for God or not – or just how serious you will be about living for God – remember ...

1. God is the Creator of all things,
including you
2. Your life is a priceless gift for which
God has given you responsibility
3. There is a day you will give account
to God of what you did with it

4. Managing your life according to His leading and plan is and will eternally be defined by unimaginable joy and delight

Psalm 16:6 “The boundary lines have
fallen for me in pleasant places;
surely I have a delightful inheritance.”

16:11 “You make known to me the path
of life; in Your presence there is fullness
of joy; at Your right hand are pleasures
forevermore.”

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