

The Unchanging Love of God

Malachi 1:1-5

The Bottom Line: Returning to reverence begins with recognizing the depth of God's love for us.

Introduction:

Today, we begin a new series through the book of Malachi which we are calling, *Returning to Reverence*.

"Reverence" = a posture of worship and awe (fear of the Lord), demonstrated through holy consecration.

In the book of Malachi, we find God's people with their hearts drifting far from the Lord. This is revealed in how they speak about God, as well as how they live for God in a very half-hearted manner.

God is a pursuing God, and He pursues His people so that they might experience

Truth:

the fullness of life that is only found in Him. However, the beginning of His call to repentance looks a little different than you might expect. Look with me at				
Malachi 1:1-5.				

Application & Conclusion:

Perhaps we do not understand the depth of God's love because we do not understand the depths of God's wrath. God takes care of our needs and cures our broken hearts, yes — but that is not the greatest proof of His love. The greatest proof we have that God loves us is simply that He does not deal with us according to our sins, but He gives grace upon grace. He gives mercy upon mercy. He stays faithful even when we are faithless.

How much more should we understand this on the other side of the cross? Where our many sins were covered in the love of God and the blood of Jesus? It is true... He who knew no sin became sin for us that we might become the righteousness of God (2 Corinthians 5:21).

In other words, whereas we could never be fully holy, fully righteous before God as to meet His standard, God put on flesh and took His own wrath. This is the love of God – that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us (Romans 5:8).

The only appropriate response to that is awe and worship.

Reflection Questions:

1. What does this teach me about God?

2. What does this teach me about me?

3. How do I apply this to my life?