

Does It Pay To Serve God?  
Malachi 3:13-14

Serving is not what we do, it's who we are.

*“You have said harsh things against me,” says the LORD. ‘Yet you ask, ‘What have we said against you?’ You have said, ‘It is futile to serve God. What did we gain by carrying out his requirements?’”* Malachi 3:13-14

- “Serve” means you live your life for God.
- “Serve” means you give yourself to God.

They were saying, “We have been serving God, and it has not been a fulfilling experience. It hasn't paid off.”

- God DESERVES to be served.
- God DESIRES to be served.
- God DEMANDS to be served.

The people in the day of Malachi had decided that it didn't pay to serve God. The theme of the passage is “Serving God.” Those who do not serve God see little benefit in contrast to those who do serve God and enjoy the benefits. They were asking, “What are we getting out of it?” The word “gain” was used when someone expected their cut of the deal. They questioned God's payoff. Their conclusion was, “We're no better off.” They felt that serving was useless with little reward. Does it pay to serve God?

The answer is yes!! There is nothing as fulfilling as serving God. There are a lot of people who regret they did not serve God, but no one has ever regretted they served God. The happiest people in the world are those who give their life serving God.

### **1. When We Serve, We Realize Our Purpose.**

*“Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart; I appointed you...”*  
Jeremiah 1:5

*“I know the plans I have for you,” declares the LORD, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.”* Jeremiah 29:11

*“You saw me before I was born. Every day of my life was recorded in your book. Every moment was laid out before a single day had passed.”* Psalm 139:16

*“Teach me to serve You with complete devotion.”* Psalm 86:11

*“Serve the Lord with gladness.”* Psalm 100:2

*“With all my heart, I try to serve You.”* Psalm 119:10

*“For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.”* Ephesians 2:10

Before you were born, God planned a life of service for you. The reason why so many people are miserable and feel empty is because they've missed the point of life.

- Serving Is The Best Use Of Your Life.

*“Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship.”* Romans 12:1

*“All of you together are the one body of Christ and each of you is a separate and necessary part of it.”* 1 Corinthians 12:27

God intended for us to accomplish some things together.

## **2. When We Serve, We Reach Our Potential.**

*“Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God’s grace in its various forms.”* 1 Peter 4:10

God has given each of you some special abilities. Be sure to use them to help each other. You’re a gifted, called, and set apart to use your gifts to make a difference in the world. God never intended for the Church to be a building.

*“We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us.”* Romans 12:6

We all have a gift, and that gift makes us a gift to the world. God gave you gifts to make a difference in the lives of the people around you. Moses and Esther used their leadership gifts to lead people out of bondage and danger. Nehemiah used his gift to rebuild a wall and a city. Dorcas used her gift of sewing to serve the church. Every gift and talent you have come directly from God for a purpose, and He wants you to use them to benefit the body of Christ.

God wants you to use your gifts in the Church to minister to people for His glory. God wants every person to be active, making a difference in the Church. God wants His Church to be full of people using their gifts to make a difference in the lives of others.

- Serving Connects Me To The Body Of Christ, The Family Of God.

*“You are part of the body of Christ and now you belong to Him in order that we might be useful in the service of God.”* Romans 7:4

We were saved to serve God. We become more together than we could ever be alone. We accomplish more together than we could ever accomplish alone. There is a place for every one of us in ministry.

## **3. When We Serve, We Reveal God’s Plan.**

*“Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart as working for the Lord and not for men. It is the Lord you are serving.”* Colossians 3:23-24

When I’m serving others, I am serving God.

- God Calls Us To Serve As His Church.

*“You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead, they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.”* Matthew 5:14-16

*“Together, we are his house...carefully joined together in Him.”* Ephesians 2:22

God always intended for the Church to be His people. We don't go to church, we are the Church. We are the Church, and we're here for the world.

*“We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully.”* Romans 12:6-8

- **When We Serve, We Become A Contributor, Not A Consumer.**

We believe the local church is the hope of the world, and God is going to stir up His Church to do more than we ever thought possible.

*“Meanwhile his disciples urged him, ‘Rabbi, eat something.’ But he said to them, ‘I have food to eat that you do not know about.’ Then his disciples said to each other, ‘Could someone have brought him food?’ Jesus said to them, ‘My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to accomplish his work. Do you not say, ‘There are yet four months, then comes the harvest’? Look, I tell you, lift up your eyes, and see that the fields are white for harvest. Already the one who reaps is receiving wages and gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together.’”* John 4:31-36

We become easily self-focused. Everyone else thinks, “Fill me,” Jesus said, “What actually fills Me is to fill others.” Jesus was saying, “What nourishes Me is to pour into the lives of others, to do the work of God, and finish the task that God sent Me to do.” The disciples were all concerned about consumption. “We've got to take care of ourselves.”

Jesus was not concerned with consuming. He was concerned with contributing. When He contributed into the lives of others, that actually nourished Him in a way that is beyond our ability to understand. Jesus is saying, “I have a higher calling than just thinking about Me. I want to contribute into the lives of others.”

The consumer mindset has bled over into the local Church. We are spiritual contributors because we understand that the Church does not exist for us. We are the Church, and we exist for the world. We are spiritual contributors, not consumers. Our food is something many people don't understand. It is to do the work and the will of God, and that nourishes us. We are the Church, and we exist to bring the love of Jesus into the world.

#### **4. When We Serve, We Are Responding To God's Pardon.**

*“Because of God's great mercy to us, offer yourselves as a living sacrifice to God dedicated to His service and pleasing to Him.”* Romans 12:1

We serve because we are in debt to God. We serve the Lord because of what He has done for us. We serve because we are grateful. Grace should always result in gratitude.

*“Serve the Lord with gladness ...”* Psalm 100:2

#### **5. When We Serve, We Will Be Rewarded By God Personally.**

*“Jesus said, My Father will honor the ones who serve Me.”* John 12:26

*“Well done, good and faithful servants. You've been faithful in a few things. I'll put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness.”* Matthew 25:21

*“Knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance; for you serve the Lord Christ.”*  
Colossians 3:24

*“For the Son of Man is going to come in his Father’s glory with his angels, and then he will reward each person according to what they have done.”* Matthew 16:27

*“Rejoice in that day and leap for joy, because great is your reward in heaven.”* Luke 6:23

*“And you will be blessed. Although they cannot repay you, you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.”* Luke 14:14

*“Keep busy in your work for the Lord, since you know that nothing you do in the Lord’s service is ever without value.”* 1 Corinthians 15:58

It's not how long you live that matters, it's how you live that matters.

YOUR CHURCH FAMILY NEEDS YOU TO SERVE.