

# HONOR GOD FOR WHO HE IS!

MAY 26, 2024

## WORSHIP

Prepare The Way Of The Lord,  
O How Great , Offering, O  
Come to the Altar, My Heart is  
Yours / I Surrender All

## WELCOME

Who are the personalities  
that we usually like to honor  
with awards, praises,  
recognition and gifts?

## WORD

### **MALACHI 3:8-12** (READ FROM 2:17 UP TO THE END OF MALACHI 3)

<sup>8</sup> “Would anyone rob God? Yet you are robbing Me! But you say, ‘How have we robbed You?’ In tithes and [j]offerings. <sup>9</sup> You are cursed with a curse, for you are robbing Me, the entire nation of you! <sup>10</sup> Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, so that there may be food in My house, and put Me to the test now in this,” says the LORD of armies, “if I do not open for you the windows of heaven and pour out for you a blessing until [k]it overflows. <sup>11</sup> Then I will rebuke the devourer for you, so that it will not destroy the fruit of your ground; nor will the vine in the field prove fruitless to you,” says the LORD of armies. <sup>12</sup> “All the nations will call you blessed, for you will be a delightful land,” says the LORD of armies.

Many things disappoint us: people, circumstances, even God. People in Malachi’s time were disappointed, they were under a foreign government, and were greatly discouraged. We find great encouragement in knowing who God is; we need to know Him not just based on our past experiences. We got to keep growing in our knowledge of Him. Eternal life is to “know (Gk. Ginosko, personal knowledge and experience) You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent” (**John 17:3**). If you know Him, you will want to serve, trust, and worship Him! We must honor God for who He is.

### **GOD IS JUST (Malachi 3:1-4)**

People grumbled, lacked passion and devotion for God, and had a wrong view of God (**Malachi 2:17**). What we believe about God is the most important thing, don’t judge God based on circumstances. You may think that life is unfair but instead of blaming the past, or circumstances, focus and do what God wants you to do. Trust that God can change things, because our God is at work!

**Verses 1-2** gives the response to **Malachi 2:17** which looks for the “God of justice”. It begins with a prophetic statement about God’s coming messenger (fulfilled in John the Baptist), and the Lord (Jesus Christ). The day will come when Jesus brings justice. God is our Righteous Judge. God is in the business of refining people (**vv. 3-4**) until we bear the image of Christ! God’s discipline is for our good, it trains us towards righteousness (**Hebrews 12:10-11**). God uses problems and difficulties to refine our character – so in the meantime, trust God completely. He will sacrifice our comfort to sanctify our spiritual life. We are not meant to live in this world

forever, God has all eternity to make it right. Our circumstances and problems are temporal, but God’s promises are eternal. God is always fair and just! God is the Rock, He is perfect, all His ways are just, He is faithful, righteous, and upright (**Deuteronomy 32:3-4**)! Through Jesus Christ, God will judge the world in righteousness (**Acts 17:30-31**). We must therefore repent and change to please God with our lives. The foundation of His reign is righteousness and justice balanced with lovingkindness and truth (**Psalms 89:14**).

### **GOD IS IMMUTABLE (Malachi 3:5-7)**

God is consistent with His promises, He doesn’t change in character and His ways. The prevalent sins in those days were sorcery, adultery, oppression, greed, lies, and the like (**vv. 5-6**). Yet God declared that since He does not change and He is righteous, holy, and loving, judgment has not fully come upon them. The people have constantly disobeyed God, and He desires for them to return (repent) (**v.7**). They need to go back to God completely to rid themselves of the consequences of their own unfaithfulness. Draw near to God – stop running away from Him and choose to be intimate with God (**James 4:8**).

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## WORD

### GOD OWNS EVERYTHING (Malachi 3:8-9)

God answers the question “How shall we return?” (v.7) –brings up this issue about robbing Him (vv. 8-9). He tells us what to do and what not to do with money. The Bible tells us that the root of evil is the love of money (1 Timothy 6:10). What are we worried about the most? What makes us feel afraid? What makes spouses fight? The issue here is the state of our hearts. Many people “wander away from the faith and pierce themselves with many griefs”. Are we greedy? To honor God, we must know who He is. He is the owner of all things. Those who are covetous will not inherit the kingdom of God (Ephesians 5:5). A test of spirituality is how you deal with possessions; the antidote to covetousness and greed is giving. We need to embrace that God owns everything!

Tithe means ten percent. Everything in the world belongs to God (Psalm 50:10-12)! Leviticus 27:30 mentions “tithe of the land”, and it belongs to God. But even before the law was given, before Moses, Abraham already gave a tenth to God (Genesis 14:19-20). Jacob also understood this principle and gave tithes (Genesis 28:22). An offering is anything over and above tithing. Jesus said that He never abolished the Law (the Old Testament) (Matthew 5:17-19). In the old covenant, animal sacrifice had to be done to clear their sins, in the new covenant, forgiveness of sins is through Jesus Christ, but the rest of the laws remain. Even the scribes and Pharisees tithed (Matthew 23:23); Jesus didn’t abolish tithing but reminds us that other things about the law should not be disregarded. Paul also mentions “proportionate giving” (1 Corinthians 16:1-2); it is called “grace giving”. 2 Corinthians 8:3-5 shows us believers that had no ability to give (vv.1-5), but even in their deep poverty, they still gave beyond their own ability because they loved the Lord. The first ten percent is to be given to the Lord, and we budget with the 90%. Jesus tells us that where our treasure is, there our hearts will be also (Matthew 6:21).

### GOD IS A REWARDER (Malachi 3:10-18)

We’re to “bring the whole tithe into the storehouse”, the temple (v. 10) and God presents a challenge to His people – test Me now on this – He shall “pour out blessings until it overflows”. He is the REWARDER! If we trust in the Lord, He will take care of our needs (vv. 11-12). If we give, it will be given back to us – we can never outgive God (Luke 6:38)! God loves a cheerful giver (2 Corinthians 9:6-7) and is a rewarder of those who seek Him (Hebrews 11:6). God corrected people’s wrong view of Him so that they can “distinguish” between righteous and evil men (vv. 14-18). We are creatures of hope; if we don’t have the real hope of God’s amazing promises, God’s Word won’t impact our lives. Don’t believe the lies of Satan. Cling on to God’s promises and learn to trust Him completely. Do everything for His glory!

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

(Leaders: Please choose questions that are appropriate to the level of spiritual maturity of your members)

#### 1. Self-Check.

What do you appreciate about the justice of God?

#### 2. Setting It Right.

If God owns everything, why do you think we struggle with giving our tithes & offerings to Him? How do we change that?

#### 3. Living It Out.

Why should we believe that God is a rewarder?

## WORKS

### PRAY CARE SHARE IN ACTION

Pray for people in your spheres of influence to know God personally. Pray for them to see that everything belongs to God, and they can trust Him to provide for their needs. Live your life this week in such a way that they will see what it means to honor Him for who He is. Share how they too can know Jesus as Savior and Lord.

## WEEKLY PRAYER POINTS

### I. Thanksgiving

- Worship God for who He is, what He has done, and what He will do in our lives.

### II. Country and the World

- Upright and moral governance of public servants; repentance and salvation for government leaders and citizens for a Christ-centered Philippines.
- God’s help and comfort, salvation for Israel, wisdom for their leaders in government, military and their soldiers as they defend themselves against terrorists’ attacks. PRAISE GOD for the release of hostages so far! Continue to pray for the release of the remaining ones.
- War in Ukraine to end, loss of lives prevented.

### III. Church

- That CCF Members would honor and love God and make disciples.
- Elders, pastors, dleaders, and families (holy, humble, harmonious, happy, heart-working).
- Ministries and churches expansion worldwide.

### IV. CCF Facilities

- Worship and Training Center
- Prayer Mountain

### V. Personal Concerns

- Deeper intimate relationship with God.
- Righteous living.
- Salvation of family and friends..

## MEMORY VERSE

### MALACHI 3:10

<sup>10</sup> Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, so that there may be food in My house, and test Me now in this,” says the Lord of hosts, “if I will not open for you the windows of heaven and pour out for you a blessing until it overflows