

Our Destiny: God's Treasuring of The Remnant

Malachi 3:13-18

Pastor GL Wong

Malachi 3:13-18 reveals the last of 6 disputations between God and His people. There were 2 groups of people: those who did not truly follow God and whose hearts were hardened, and remnants, who though not perfect, repented when they stumbled into sin. Passages like this chosen passage in Malachi serve as a reminder for our souls to turn away from danger, and instead experience the flourishing God desires for us.

Finding yourself in the Story of Malachi 3:13-18

1. A Negative Example

vv. 13-15 – This group of people was misrepresenting what it means to serve God. They found no personal benefit in serving God and envied unbelievers who did not know and serve God. They've turned the joy of serving God into a burden instead. Serving God is not supposed to be a burden. It is meant to bring joy to our hearts.

When a call is given from God's law to serve and obey Him, it is meant to be a joyful call, not a burdensome call (Ps. 119:72, 77, 92, 97; Ro. 7:22). Serving God is a joy, never a burden. It is an absolute privilege and profound joy to give to God (Ex. 35:20-22)!

2. A Positive Example

Similar to the negative example of people in Malachi 3 were the Pharisees. While extremely zealous in serving and obeying God outwardly, their hearts were far away from Him (Matt. 15:8). The key difference between the negative example and positive example described in this passage was the reverent fear (reverential respect) of the Lord (v. 16a).

Not only were these people God-fearing (Prov. 9:10, 15:16. 19:23, 23:17), they were also in community with one another (v. 16a). They were fearing the Lord in fellowship with one another. They arose to serve with the fear of the LORD. Ever since the time of Adam to now, those who had served God faithfully always had the fear of the LORD. Let us arise together and serve God in reverent fear!

3. The Destiny that Awaits God's Remnant

v. 16b – All that righteous acts, deeds, and motives that God's people did were recorded down into the book of remembrance. God the King remembers all that has been done for Him. Mordecai's righteous deed to king Ahasuerus was recorded in the book of remembrance; he was honoured and exalted (Est. 6:1-3). God is teaching us to trust Him as the ultimate King in this broken world. The reversal for those who serve God faithfully in this lifetime is beyond imagination. God records everything that has been done ultimately for Him. He remembers and does not forget!

vv. 17-18 – In the eyes of God, the remnants who serve Him are His treasured possessions. They are His personal treasures, highly valued by Him, and he is taking every one of them out to build His Kingdom. Just as a father would never cast his own Son out of his house despite his blemishes, God would spare us and forgive our sins. He does not reject our obedience no matter how defective it may be. The blood of Jesus Christ covers all our clumsy efforts at obedience. Find rest in your identity as a child of God! Serve, obey and give to God with joy and reverent fear!