

GOING THROUGH THE MOTIONS

Malachi 1:6-10 (I Corinthians 10:11)

The book of Malachi is different from other prophetic books. This book is basically a dialogue between God and His people with God speaking and the people answering back. God is not happy with their treatment of Himself in their insincere, thoughtless attempts at worship. Here is what He wants.

Malachi 1:6 God Wants Reverence The word honor actually means to be heavy. Basically it means to treat Him as someone who is extremely important, someone of great significance. The fifth commandment regarding parents does not just mean to obey or respect it means much much more.

People come to worship at church for many different reasons; some to hear a certain preacher, some to hear a great choir, some because of family commitment, some even come for business opportunity. God tells us that He is our Father and the number one reason to come and worship is to honor Him.

Malachi 1:6-8 God Wants The Best God makes His allegations to the priests and spiritual leaders that were responsible and should have known better. The priests were accepting terrible, sometimes worthless offerings for sacrifice from the people. We are to take note of how God sees us when we give less than the best of our spiritual offerings. The bible presents three standards for acceptable sacrifices:

1. **Matthew 26: 7-13 Give God Our Best** In response to what Jesus Christ has done for us, God our Father has the right to expect those of us that He has redeemed to give our very best.
2. **Proverbs 3:9; Matthew 6:33 Give To God First** The bible tells us that God owns the earth and everything that is in it. He provides everything we have and owns all that we call our own. Any time God enlarges what we receive it is His right to expect us to think of giving back to Him.
3. **II Samuel 24:24 Giving To God Should Always Mean Sacrifice** The bible example is clear. King David would not give something to God that did not cost something from himself. What does it look like to give less than our best, to give to God after giving to ourselves, or to give something to God that did not cost us anything?
 - It's when we spend three hours watching T.V. or on the internet and five minutes in our bible.
 - It's when we give our job our best energy, our best talent, our best motivation but when the house of God needs something we sit on the sidelines and let someone else do the serving.
 - It's when we spend money on vacations, birthdays, hobbies, etc. but tip God in the offering.
 - It's when we yell and shout when our team is winning but we get bored during bible preaching.
 - It's when we love our spouse and family so much there is nothing we won't do for them but our heart does not beat as fast or care that much when we think about the Lord Jesus Christ.

Malachi 1:10-11 God Wants The Highest Praise God's complaint to His people was that they did not regard Him or show Him great regard. The quality of our worship will be in direct proportion to what our concept of God is. If we see Him for who He is and what He's done shouldn't our worship be different than it is? God is a jealous God (**Exodus 20:5**) and He will not accept our phoney worship.

When was the last time we worshiped God and are sure that our worship was acceptable to God?

Ephesians 5:18; Galatians 5:22-25 It is impossible to truly worship God without being filled with His Spirit. Search the scriptures and see for yourself, every time the Apostles or other believers were filled with the Spirit they worshiped, and they witnessed and were in a spiritual state that pleased God.

Ephesians 4:30; I Thessalonians 5:19 I submit to us all that it is because of our lethargic and insincere spiritual state of carnality that we have grieved and quenched the holy Spirit and are worshiping in vain, spinning our wheels, and just "going through the motions" of worship and the Lord God Almighty is sick to death (**Revelation 3:15-16**) and does not accept our cold indifferent hearts.