

## Morning Worship

January 29, 2017

Pastor — Allan Lane

Organ --- Alva Lou Schottel

Worship Leader — Don Beavers

Piano — Marcia Hart

**As you enter for worship, please silence your cell phones.**

(CCLI permit # 424692 covers all copyright song lyrics)

Chorus # 441 *Since Jesus Came into My Heart* Don/People

Worship Prayer

Allan Lane

Welcome and Fellowship

Allan/People

Chorus # 359

*This Is the Day*

Don/People

Hymn # 428

*Ring the Bells of Heaven*

Don/People

Solo

Don Beavers

Hymn # 425

*He Keeps Me Singing*

Don/People

Offering Prayer

Bill Schottel

Tithes and Offerings

People

Offering Music

Marcia Hart

Children's Worship

(Children are dismissed)

Scripture Reading

*Malachi 1:1*

Allan/People

Message

*Stay on the Right Track*

Allan Lane

Hymn # 321

*The Savior is Waiting*

Don/People

Prayer Concerns

Allan/People

Chorus # 448 *Just a Closer Walk with Thee* Don/People

## The Message of Malachi: Stay on the Right Track

Malachi 1:1

Getting back on the right track is the theme of the last book of the Old Testament, the book of Malachi. The prophet Malachi was sent to get Israel back on track with the Lord in four key areas—areas where you and I can often get on the wrong track if we're not careful. They needed to get back on track ...

### 1. ...With Their Love for the Lord. (Chapter 1)

#### a. God chose to love Israel.

"A successful marriage is one in which you fall in love many times, always with the same person." - D. W. McLaughlin

That also seems like the secret to an ongoing relationship with the Lord—falling in love many times, always with the same Person. We are reminded that each day His mercies are new. But our hearts can be fickle, and it is often too easy to get on the wrong track with our love for the Lord.

Malachi spends the first chapter reminding Israel of God's love for them in choosing them to be His covenant people. He didn't choose them because of how good or large they were—He chose them out of His sheer grace (Malachi 1:2). Every Israelite knew the story of Jacob and Esau. They knew God chose them, and yet they still turn around and ask in verse 2, "In what way have you loved us?"

Think in Elizabeth Barrett Browning terms: "How do you love me - Let's count the ways." God proved He loved them by rescuing them from slavery in Egypt, by leading

them into the Promised Land, making a covenant with them, sending prophets to give them His Word, bringing them back from captivity, etc. These are just a few. We could come up with countless ways God has shown His love to these people, and still they have the nerve to ask Him "But what have you done for me lately?"

**b. Israel has not honored God.**

On the other hand, Israel has not shown their love for God by showing Him honor. Verses 3-14 of chapter one describe how the priests and the people offer God polluted sacrifices and half-hearted, hypocritical service. They go through the motions, but their heart really isn't it. Their service isn't motivated by a deep love for God, but for selfish reasons, or out of fear of what He may do if they don't serve God. They need to get back on the right track with their love for the Lord.

Many centuries after Malachi's words were written, another prophet would record the Lord's words to His New Testament people in Revelation 2:4 – "Nevertheless I have this against you, that you have left your first love."

Sometimes it's very easy to get off track in our love for the Lord. We can find ourselves serving Him out of habit, or because we want to keep up appearances, or even out of fear of the consequences if we don't serve Him. But while habit and appearances, and fear have their place, the main motive God wants you to serve Him is because you love Him. What motivates us to truly love God? John tells us in 1 John 4:19 "We love Him because He first loved us."

Malachi begins by reminding Israel God loves them. The more we realize how much He loves us, the more we will love Him. If you want to be on the right track with your love for God, spend time considering how much He loves you. He came to earth, lived and died for you. He saved you, gave you His Spirit, His presence, and His promises. In countless ways Jesus Christ has demonstrated His love for you. The more you realize how real and boundless His love for you is, the more love you will have for Him. That's how you get your heart back on track with God's love.

**2. ...With Their Worship of the Lord. (2:1-9)**

**a. The Priests .**

The second chapter is addressed to the priests, who have allowed the worship of the Lord to deteriorate into meaningless rituals. Anytime the priesthood is mentioned in Scriptures, it becomes a personal thing for me because of God's calling on my life. The priests in Malachi's day refused to glorify God (v. 2). Instead of leading people in worship, they lead people away from the Lord (v. 8). They misrepresented God and His truth to those they lead (v. 5-6), and for this reason He exposed them as the fakes they are. Their so-called worship offends God because it is not done in spirit and truth.

**b. The People .**

But things have changed in the New Testament. Jesus Christ's death and resurrection proved Him to be our High Priest, Who is always on duty for us. Through Him we have continual access to God the Father. We call this the "priesthood of the believer." Jesus has interceded for us with His life. We are able to approach God directly without a priest, because in Christ we have become our own priest. Therefore, the priestly warning today is for every believer because we are "a royal priesthood" (1 Peter 2:9).

Worship is one of the easiest areas to get off on the wrong track. That's what happened with the woman at the well in John 4. Remember how she tried to start an argument with the Lord Jesus about whether she ought to worship in Jerusalem or in Samaria (John 4:21-23 21). Jesus said to her (in the Lane's paraphrased version), "Lady, the important thing about worship is not where, but Who and how you worship.

You've got to worship the God from your heart (in spirit) and worship Him in line with His Word (in truth.)"

Worship involves getting your heart and mind in gear to focus on exalting the Lord. So often we lose track of this truth.

A lady once commented to her pastor how nice it was to be able to come to church and not have to think about anything. That lady does not worship God in spirit and truth. Worship involves thought as well as feeling, love as well as action. If you don't worship in spirit and truth, you really don't worship at all. That doesn't mean we should memorize sermons, or break out in tears every time we come to church. But it does mean that when you worship God, you keep an alert mind, and a warm heart. That takes effort, and practice, but it's essential to staying on track with our worship of the Lord.

Are you on track with your worship? Do you worship the Lord in spirit and truth - adoring Him with all your mind and heart and strength? That is how you stay on track with your worship.

### **3. ...With Their Faithfulness to the Lord. (2:10-16)**

Perhaps you've seen a little sign that reads, "Idiosyncratically eccentric phraseology is the promulgator of terrible obfuscation." Doesn't that thrill your heart to hear such a thing? Of course, on the back of the sign there's written a simpler translation: "Big words cause confusion."

That word faithfulness is a big word we sometimes get confused about not because it's hard to pronounce, but because it covers so much ground. Faithfulness involves loyalty, keeping your word, being dependable and consistent. Faithfulness describes God's relation to us perfectly, but too often we get off track with our faithfulness to God. Malachi mentions several areas where God's people may be tempted to be unfaithful.

#### **a. In the horizontal sense.**

The main example he uses is marriage. Verse 11 describes how Israel has married the daughter of a foreign god. That is, married outside the covenant people. The Old Testament is full of warnings about intermarriage between God's people and idolaters. Though there are exceptions, usually the idolater ends up leading the Godly spouse away from faithfulness to the Lord.

Malachi also mentions how God feels about divorce in verse 16. Though the NT does give some guidelines concerning divorce (including when it is right, and when it is wrong). God is showing us His heart here. Divorce is ugly, painful, soul-wrenching, and God takes it personally when a couple calls it quits. After all, the promise that is made in marriage is not just to the spouse, but to the Lord, whether or not you were married in a church. God hates divorce because He calls us to be faithful— to be loyal, to keep your word, to be dependable and consistent.

Please be sure and notice God hates divorce but not divorced people. Divorce is not the unpardonable sin. God loves divorced people as much as he loves you or me or anybody else who has been unfaithful to Him in other ways. That does not change how God feels about divorce or unfaithfulness, but it does offer hope and healing when we fail to be faithful.

#### **b. In the vertical sense.**

The bottom line for Malachi is God takes our faithfulness personally. He is the God of truth. He wants us to be truthful. He is the God Who keeps His Word. He expects us to keep our word. He is the God Who is loyal to us. He expects us to be loyal and dependable, both to Him and to others. We should be faithful because God is faithful.

### **4. ...Concerning the Lord's Judgment . (3:1-4:6)**

### **a. A role reversal .**

C. S. Lewis summed up one of the biggest problems modern man faces: "The ancient man approached God...as the accused person approaches his judge. **For the modern man the roles are reversed.** He is the judge: God is on the witness stand...if God should have a reasonable defense for being the God who permits war, poverty and disease, he is ready to listen to it. The trial may even end in God's acquittal. But the important thing is that Man is on the Bench and God on the witness stand."

Lewis understood that many people put God on trial in their minds for the mess the world is in. Often they might use the simple sentence Malachi quotes some of these Jews saying: Where is the God of justice?

You might be tempted to say that in one of your darkest moments (Job did). But these people have made it a habit. What reward is there in serving God? He blesses evil people as much or more than He does His own servants. Here I am surrounded by trouble, and pagans live in palaces! Where is the God of justice?

### **b. God begins with His people.**

The Lord answers this question beginning in 3:1 when He promises to send His messenger, who will begin cleaning things up in preparation for the Lord's arrival. But here's the kicker: He won't start the clean-up with pagans, but with God's people. He will come not just to clean house, but to scour the house by demanding repentance. This is, of course, a prophecy of the ministry of John the Baptist, who's preaching is summed up Matthew 3:1-2, 7-8. The call of the Lord's Messenger, given in 3:7, matches the message of John the Baptist.

God puts His finger on one specific area of sin in Malachi 3:8. Every Israelite was required to give 10% of all they had to God for the upkeep of the Temple and to provide a living for the priests and Levites. Put in modern terms, God commanded them to give a required act of worship. But this is one bill they left unpaid, and God didn't say you're robbing the priests or you're robbing the Levites or even you're robbing the Temple. He says you are robbing Me. You need to straighten this out if you want me to bless you and give you the justice you're looking for.

### **c. There will be a future judgment.**

Finally, Malachi leaves us with his vision of the last judgment in chapter 4, when the Sun of Righteousness will arise with healing in His wings (4:2, Luke 1:78). There will come a day when the Lord will judge the world and set everything as it should be.

Where is the God of justice? He is calling His own people to repentance first. If you want to enjoy God's blessings right now, you must obey Him—especially in the area of giving. God has promised that one day He will judge the world. Keep these things in mind Malachi says and you will be on the right track concerning God's judgment.

Where is the God of justice? If you ever wonder that, don't start by looking at others—begin by looking at yourself. If you want to know why you aren't receiving more of God's blessing, take a long hard look at how much you are giving. Be patient—God will bring justice to this world, in His own time. It can help keep you on the right track when you remember God is the God of justice, as well as the God of mercy.

## **Conclusion**

There was a young man applying for a job as a flagman/switch operator on the railroad. The engineer is conducting the interview. "What would you do if the Northern Express was heading north on Track 1 and the Southern Central was heading south on Track 1?" The guy thinks a minute and then replies, "Well, I'd probably call

my brother." The engineer has to ask, "Why would you call your brother?" The reply was, "He's never seen a train wreck before."

Sooner or later, if you stay on the wrong track, you'll end up a wreck. God loves us too much to let us stay on the wrong track. He warns us, just as He warned Israel through the prophet Malachi, to stay on the right track. If you're on the wrong track today—whether it's about your love for the Lord, your worship of the Lord, your faithfulness to the Lord, or the judgment of the Lord, I encourage you to heed the warnings and go the Lord, and ask Him to help you get back on the right track.

***Don't End Up A Wreck!***

## **A View on Life**

Last Sunday was the annual *Sanctity of Human Life* day. We didn't stress it because we were making up for missing church January 18<sup>th</sup>. Don't worry. There's still plenty of evidence for the blatant disregard for human life today. We are daily threatened by terrorism and suicide bombers. There's still the issue of human trafficking as well as the old standby, abortion.

In Genesis 22 we read where God commanded Abraham to take his son, the promised heir, and offer Isaac as a sacrifice. So what was God thinking when He asks Abraham to do this? Sure, God stopped Abraham at the last second, but what do you believe is really going on there? If He is making a point of some kind it seems to be a pretty extreme and cruel way to get the message across, and what is the message anyway?

Perhaps God is attempting to show us in a dramatic way that human sacrifice of any kind is wrong. If His point is to say that human life is valuable, then what about those who die accidentally or the soldiers in war? Aren't they valuable? We pray for their safety around the clock. If God is trying to stress the value of human life then it seems to me that asking Abraham to sacrifice Isaac is a kind of gruesome way to drive this point home.

Perhaps the question is not "Why does God allow innocent lives to be sacrificed?" but "Why does He allow us to live, when we have messed up His world so much by our sin?" We are the ones who continue to allow bad things to happen to good people. Our sin has far-reaching implications (Romans 6:23). Why doesn't God wipe out the majority of the human race and start again? After all, He's done it before (Genesis 6:7, Genesis 7).

In Ezekiel 18:23 (NLT) God asks "Do you think that I like to see wicked people die? says the Sovereign Lord. Of course not! I want them to turn from their wicked ways and live." The Bible says that judgment is real and it will come to everyone. In 2 Peter 3:9 (NLT) it says "The Lord isn't really being slow about His promise, as some people think. No, He is being patient for your sake. He does not want anyone to be destroyed, but wants everyone to repent."

A major league baseball player hit the ball far out in left field. Bases were loaded. The one who was on 2nd base made it all the way to home plate and he collided with the catcher. Immediately, the one team yelled, "He's safe, he's safe, he's safe." The other team yelled, "He's out, he's out, he's out."

Upon looking at both teams the umpire calmly announced, "He ain't nothin' 'til I call him." The issue is not how you and I feel about the sanctity of life, but it's how God feels. It's not how you and I call it, but it's how God calls it.

A pro-choice feminist and a pro-life conservative were debating the relative merits of the sanctity of life issue. Sensing victory in the debate, the feminist declared, "You don't understand, we've won in the White House, and we've won in the courthouse. Face it, it's over, the fat lady has already sung."

The pro-lifer calmly replied, "According to the Bible you got it wrong. It's not over until the trumpet sounds."

God Bless You!

*Bro. Allan*

## **Opportunities For Service**

**Living out Your Spiritual Commitment . . . and Fulfilling Christ's Divine Plan**

**Sunday, January 29, 2017**

Choir Rehearsal..... 9:00 am  
Sunday School ..... 9:15 am  
Morning Worship.....10:30 am  
Nursery: Volunteers as needed  
Ushers: Larry McKahan, Isaac Waters, Ken Kirkpatrick, Bill Schottel  
Alternate: Ken Nice  
January Bible Study ..... Noon

***Complacency Exposed***

A Study of the book of Malachi

No Evening Worship.....

**Wednesday, February 1**

Youth Study..... 6:30 pm  
Prayer / Bible Study ....6:30 pm  
Adult Choir ..... 7:30 pm

**Thursday, February 2**

G Team.....6:30 pm

**Sunday, February 5, 2017**

Choir Rehearsal.....9:00 am  
Sunday School.....9:15 am  
Morning Worship.....10:30 am  
Nursery: Volunteers as needed  
Ushers: ? ? ? ?, Ken Nice,  
Don Sharp, Fred Kerns

Alternate: Isaac Waters

No Evening Worship...

**Monday, February 6**

Senior Adult Council Meeting .....10:00 am  
Food Kitchen.....5:30 pm

**Wednesday, February 8**

Prayer Warriors.....10:00 am  
Youth Bible Study.....6:30 pm  
Bible Study.....6:30 pm  
Adult Choir.....7:30 pm

**Thursday, February 9**

R Team.....6:30 pm  
W Team.....6:30 pm

### Up-Coming Events.....

January 29 — January Bible Study—Noon

February 2 — Senior Adult Event, Savannah Avenue Baptist, 10:00 am

February 6 — Senior Adult Council Meeting 10 am

Food Kitchen 5:30 pm

February 8 — Prayer Warriors

February 12 — Food Pantry Collection Day

February 16 — Food Pantry Day

### **GROW Team**

Commit to **GROW!** Everyone make a contact! Invite someone to Bible Study and Worship this week. 😊

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#### **Sunday Nights**

We will not have Bible study tonight at 6:30 pm.

### **Wednesday Night Prayer and Bible Study**

We will meet Wednesday at 6:30 pm. We are doing a new study by Erwin Lutzer entitled, *One Minute After You Die*. This eight session study focuses on what we can know for certain about what happens after we leave this world. Hope to see you here!

### **January Bible Study**

#### ***Malachi***

Today, January 29, 2017

Following the morning worship service with a lunch that will be provided. Just bring a dessert. Please plan to attend.

### **Save the Date!**

**Area Men's Retreat**

**August 19 8 am to 3 pm**

**Frederick Boulevard Baptist Church**

In case you missed it....

**Juanita Haskins's  
90th birthday  
was January 19th...**

Cards may be sent to their new address:

Riverside Place  
1616 Weisenborn Road  
(room 314)  
St. Joseph, MO 64507

If you have questions please contact me at 752-0069  
Thanks! Jo Mayse

**February 2, 2017  
Senior Adult Event  
Savannah Avenue  
Baptist Church  
10:00 am**

***Prayer Warriors***

Wednesday, February 8  
at 10:00 am

**Food Pantry  
Collection Day!**

**February 12**

You may place your non-perishable items in the basket in the hallway at any time.

Thank You!

***For the Record-***

**Attendance: January 15, 2017**

No services due to weather.

**Attendance: January 22, 2017**

Sunday School.....	40
Visitors.....	4
Total.....	44
Contacts Made.....	4
Morning Worship.....	44
Children's Worship.....	13



Sunday Night ..... N/A  
Wednesday Night ..... 7

**Financial Record:**

Weekly Budget ..... \$ 2,040.52  
Offering Received ... \$ 3,576.34

**Offering Received by Mail:**

**February Counting Team:**

Larry McKahan and Jordan Lane

**February Van Driver:**

Mike Green

Remember to call 232-3747

**before 8 am** if you need a ride.

**February Member Birthdays:**

05...Matthew Mayse

06...Eileen Smith

**February Anniversaries**

George and Brenda Burgess

February 25, 1995

***Prayer Requests ...***

Sue Higgins—upcoming surgery

Juanita and Bill Haskins—adjustments

Tim Izer

Gary & Peggy Fewins, Byron & Joel

George Ferbert—strength

Nellie Reynolds—recovery at home

Troy Griswold—cancer

Larry Danner—cancer treatment

Cynthia Burdick—cancer treatment

Jim Winans at home

Karissa and Matt Long and family

Betty Campbell—healing

Marcia and Don Hart—future plans

Lisa Bowers—Jack and Flo's daughter

LoLeta Middleton—strength

Ellen Blanton and Lois Ulmer—

Elvera's daughter & daughter-in-law

Stella Davis and Linda Rails—Doris

Richardson's sisters

Madeline Swink        Sue Higgins

Kathryn Beavers       Ann Riddle

Louanne Laurence       Keon McKahan

Jozy Winans        Leona Reynolds

Kevin Duty        Kenny Duty

Pat Puckett        Buddy Means

Bill Haskins                Debbie Sands  
Brenda Burgess        Judy Anderson  
Carolyn Houts        Roscoe Lane  
Missionaries Don and Diane Combs  
Nickolay Nazaruk, Peski 2 Church  
David and Deborah Grace  
Jeanette Swackhamer—Beja People  
Our Nation and Leaders  
Our Military Service people  
**Today's Prayer Requests ...**

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**Our Nation and our Leaders ...**

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**Five More New Families...**

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