

Morning Worship

February 26, 2017

Pastor — Allan Lane

Organ --- Alva Lou Schottel

Worship Leader — Tim Waters

Piano — Sharon Waters

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

(CCLI permit # 424692 covers all copyright song lyrics)

Welcome and Fellowship

Allan/People

Scripture Reading Psalm 33:1-5

Allan/People

Chorus # 215

Majesty

Tim/People

Worship Prayer

Allan Lane

Anthem *Great Is Your Faithfulness*

Worship Choir

Prayer and Fellowship Medley

Tim/People

446 *Take Time to Be Holy*

447 *Trust and Obey*

452 *He Is So Precious to Me*

Offering Prayer

Fred Kerns

Tithes and Offerings

People

Offering Music

Sharon Waters

Children's Worship

(Children are dismissed)

Message

Malachi: Be Faithful

Allan Lane

Hymn # 326

All on the Altar

Tim/People

Prayer Concerns

Allan/People

Chorus # 457

Lord, Be Glorified

Tim/People

Malachi: Be Faithful

Malachi 2:10-16

Malachi points out how the people mistreated each other because they were not right with God. In the Great Commandment, Jesus says that commitment to our love relationship with God positively impacts our relationship with others.

If we are not right with God, it will be reflected in the choices we make in our relationship with others. Malachi cites three such choices being made by the people of his day.

1. They chose compromise over conviction. Verses 11-12

Malachi says they had desecrated the Lord's sanctuary by their practice of idolatry. In accepting other gods as being equal to Yahweh, they were saying, in effect, that He was not holy or separate or superior to the false gods of their pagan neighbors.

It is important to note that the real problem here was not interracial marriage. A mixed multitude went out of Egypt with the Israelites (Exodus 12:38), but they committed themselves to Jehovah (Exodus 12:48; Numbers 9:14). Boaz married Ruth the Moabitess, but she had forsaken the false gods of her people for Israel's God (Ruth 1:16).

But, these Israelites were marrying women who remain devoted to their false gods. The problem **wasn't interracial marriage, but interfaith marriage**. Malachi says that the Lord would "cut off from the tents of Jacob" whoever it was who "marry the daughter of a foreign god." This judgment of God on those who married unbelievers is really one where He allows them to experience the consequences of their choice. The

fact was, you see, that no matter who they were in the nation of Israel, they would find themselves cut off simply by virtue of the fact that the compromise they had made in choosing the unbeliever over the Lord would be a choice fraught with problems.

There was a reason God forbade intermarriage with unbelievers then and a reason God forbids it now. Paul makes clear what that reason is (2 Corinthians 6:14-15).

The judgment upon those who marry unbelievers is this: it is difficult to walk with God when your spouse is pulling you in the opposite direction. This is why God says they would find that they had, by virtue of this choice, made it difficult to walk with God and His people, "even though he brings offerings to the Lord Almighty." That's what the Bible means in 1 Corinthians 2:14.

Rather than finding their satisfaction in their love relationship with God, the people in Malachi's day were left to find satisfaction in something or someone else, which led them to choose compromise over conviction. Sadly, too many of God's people today are doing the same thing, and are making choices that are causing their life to be far more difficult than what God would have wanted for them.

2. They chose hypocrisy over holiness. Verses 13-14

Despite the fact that their lives were not right with God, the people were "going through the motions" of worship and wondering why God seemed so distant. Rather than being willing to be honest about their sins, they were content instead to ignore each others sins and let each other off the hook, rather than get honest with each other about why they were so far from God.

This reminds me of the old joke about the guy who sat on a chair with a nail that had worked its way up through the seat, and sat their crying about it, but who was too lazy to get up off the chair.

John Charles Ryle, Anglican bishop of Liverpool in the 19th century speaks of holiness. He says, "It is not knowledge...nor great profession...nor doing many things...nor zeal for certain matters in religion..." He continues that holiness is not "morality and outward respectability of conduct, nor taking pleasure in hearing preachers, nor keeping company with godly people. These things alone are not holiness. A man may have any one of them, and yet never see the Lord."

John Brown, Nineteenth-century Scottish theologian said "Holiness does not consist in mystic speculations, enthusiastic fervours, or uncommanded austerities; it consists in thinking as God thinks, and willing as God wills."

There's a little poem that goes like this:

*One day I looked at myself—at the self that Christ can see;
I saw the person I am today and the one I ought to be.
I saw how little I really pray and how little I really do;
I saw the influence of my life—how little of it was true!
I saw the bundle of faults and fears I ought to lay on the shelf;
I had given a little bit to God, but I hadn't given myself!
I came from seeing myself, with my mind made up to be—
The sort of person that Christ can use, with a heart He may always see.*

These folks preferred to pretend to others that everything was alright than get honest and right with God. They preferred to cry about how distant God seemed than to do the repentance and reformation needed to get right with God. Too many today do the very same thing.

3. The chose convenience over commitment. Verses 14-16

The reason why God seemed so distant was that the people had moved away from Him. One sin that had drawn them from the Lord was that the men of Israel were trading in their older wives for newer models.

Does the Bible say there are legitimate reasons for divorce? Yes.

1) Sexual infidelity is justifiable grounds for divorce (Matthew 19:9). The innocent party can divorce and remarry without guilt.

2) Abuse and neglect are justifiable grounds for divorce (Exodus 21:10-11). The innocent party is free to remarry without guilt.

3) If a divorce occurs for **other reasons**, the one who did not want the divorce is considered guiltless (Deuteronomy 24:1-2).

But it is clear that none of these legitimate reasons for divorce were being observed by the men of Israel. They found it more convenient to disregard God's call to commitment than to remain in marriage with the "wife of their youth," who now was old, or not as attractive, or whatever. Let us consider what was at the root of all these sins. Note verses 15 and 16 - "So guard yourself in your spirit."

What led them to marry others outside their faith? Wrong choices that hurt us and others come from a lack of satisfaction with God's provision, which results from a lack of investment in our relationship with God.

Unless one has invested in their relationship with God, they can't be satisfied with His provision, and will look in the wrong places to satisfy their needs. Choices will be made that hurt themselves and others. That is why the people in Malachi's day made choices that hurt themselves and others. That's why people make the same kind of choices today.

Conclusion

When our Savior walked upon this earth, He modeled for us how to live in communion with and dependence on the Father. Jesus found His satisfaction in His relationship with the Father, consequently, He could willingly reject everything this world had to offer and choose instead to do the Father's will, which, by the way resulted in bringing the possibility of eternal blessing to you and me.

We have a daily choice. Will we follow the way of Christ or the way of this world? Will we invest in our relationship with God and develop satisfaction with Him God and His provisions? Or will we neglect our relationship with God and develop a dissatisfaction that leads us to look to the empty provisions of this world? One way bless us and others, the other brings difficulty to us and to others. Perhaps your choices have led to hurting yourself and others. You don't have to continue down that road. Turn around. The Lord is still there and He still loves you.

We Have A Daily Choice!

A Forever Family

Author Keith Miller tells of an out-going 40-year-old woman who was part of a sharing group he led. Here is her story:

"When I was a tiny little girl, my parents died and I was put in an orphanage. I was not pretty at all and no one seemed to want me. But I longed to be adopted and loved by a family as far back as I can remember. I thought about it day and night, but everything I did seemed to go wrong. I must have tried too hard to please the people who came to look me over and what I did was to drive them away.

"But then one day the head of the orphanage told me that a family was coming to take me home with them. I was so excited that I jumped up and down and cried like a little baby. The matron reminded me that I was on trial and this might not be a permanent arrangement, but I just knew

that somehow it would work out.

"So I went with this family and started to school. I was the happiest little girl you can imagine, and life began to open up for me just a little. But then one day a few months later, I skipped home from school and ran into the front door of the big old house we lived in. No one was at home, but in the middle of the front hall was my battered suitcase with my little coat thrown across it. As I stood there it suddenly dawned on me what it meant---I didn't belong there anymore."

Miller reports that when the woman stopped speaking there was hardly a dry eye in the group. But then she cleared her throat and said almost matter-of-factly, "This happened to me seven times before I was 13 years old. But wait. Don't feel too badly for me. It was experiences like these that ultimately brought me to God---and there I found what I had always longed for---a place, a sense of belonging, a forever family."

In his book, *The Family of God*, Batsell Barrett Baxter says:

"There are some who think of the church as an organization like other organizations. It is true that the church is an organization, but it is not primarily an organization. Rather, it is a new way of life. Those who have the view that being a part of the church is like being a member of a lodge, a luncheon club, a political party, or even a business are seriously mistaken. Such people feel that they should give to the church the same kind of support and loyalty which they give to these other organizations. It becomes my church, as it is 'my club, or lodge, or party, or team.' The Christian's loyalty to Church, however, should be unique, for in reality it is a loyalty to Christ and His way of life. The church is like no other institution on earth and a person's membership in the church is like no other membership which he may sustain. The church is more like a vibrant, living organism, than it is like a cold, structured organization..."

Some make the mistake of thinking that the church...exists for the entertainment and enjoyment of its members. On the contrary, the church exists in order that its members may have an intimate relationship with Christ and God, as well as a close relationship with mankind."

God Bless You!

Bro. Allan

Opportunities For Service

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

Sunday, February 26, 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

January Bible Study.....Noon

Diversicare.....2:30 pm

No Evening Worship.....

Monday, February 27

SS Workers 6:30 pm

Wednesday, March 1

Youth Study..... 6:30 pm

Prayer / Bible Study6:30 pm

Adult Choir 7:30 pm

Thursday, March 2

G Team.....6:30 pm

Saturday, March 4

Kevin Rowe in Concert 4-5 pm

Sunday, March 5, 2017

Choir Rehearsal.....9:00 am

Sunday School.....9:15 am

Morning Worship.....10:30 am

Nursery: Volunteers as needed

Ushers: John Lewis, Gary Yarbrough, Joseph Coats, Isaac Waters

Alternate: Larry McKahan

Evening Worship.....6:30 pm

Monday, March 6

Food Kitchen.....5:30 pm

Wednesday, March 8

Prayer Warriors.....10:00 am

Youth Bible Study.....6:30 pm

Bible Study.....6:30 pm

Adult Choir.....7:30 pm

Thursday, March 9

R Team.....6:30 pm

Up-Coming Events.....

February 26 — January Bible Study at Noon

— Diversicare 2:30 pm

March 4 — Kevin Rowe in Concert 4-5 pm

March 6 — Food Kitchen 5:30 pm

March 8 — Prayer Warriors 10:00 am

March 10-11 — NW Region Disaster Relief Training

March 12 — Food Pantry Collection

— Daylight Saving Time begins

March 17 — Happy St. Patrick's 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 this week at 6:30 pm. Please join us for our January Bible Study following our morning worship service!

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!

Diversicare

Nursing Home

February 26, 2017 at 2:30 pm

Please join us as we minister to those who can no longer attend their own churches.

KEVIN ROWE COUNTRY GOSPEL SINGER IN CONCERT

here at

Calvary Baptist Church

Saturday, March 4, 2017 4-5 pm

A church-wide
fellowship will follow.

Food Kitchen

We will serve Monday, March 6, at 5:30 pm. Please feel free to join us as we show the love of Christ and minister to those in need.

Prayer Warriors

Wednesday, March 8, 2017

10:00 am

Southern Baptist Convention Disaster Relief Training March 10-11

Cost for first time

registration is \$20.00.

Pleasant Valley Baptist Church 1600 North 291 Hwy
Liberty, Missouri 64068

Daylight Saving Time!

March 12

Please remember to spring forward one hour the night of March 11.

In Sympathy

*We would like to express Christian Sympathy to the family and friends of Sue Higgings who passed away
Tuesday, February 21, 2017.*

For the Record-

Attendance: February 12, 2017

Sunday School.....	38
Visitors.....	5
Total.....	43
Contacts Made.....	0
Morning Worship.....	47
Children's Worship.....	N/A
Wednesday Night	18

Financial Record:

Weekly Budget	\$ 2,040.52
Offering Received ...	\$ 935.07

Offering Received by Mail:

March Counting Team:

Bill Schottel and Mike Green

March Van Driver:

George Burgess

Remember to call 232-3747

before 8 am if you need a ride.

March Member Birthdays:

01...Ken Nice
 05...Sharon Yarbrough
 13...Tim Ford
 16... Don Sharp
 16... Aleana Lane
 20... Betty Campbell
 27... Jim Winans

March Anniversaries

Fred and Linda Kerns
 March 14, 1969

Prayer Requests ...

Datha Dillon's Daughter's family

The family of Sue Higgins

Rev. A. B. Brown

Tommy Mummert—heart surgery

Claud McClain—leg amputated

Tracy Maisel and Tim Ford

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	Ann Riddle
Kathryn Beavers	Keon McKahan
Louanne Laurence	Leona Reynolds
Jozy Winans	Kenny Duty
Kevin Duty	Buddy Means
Bill Haskins	Debbie Sands
Pat Puckett	Judy Anderson
Brenda Burgess	Roscoe Lane

Carolyn Houts
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 ...

Our Nation and our Leaders ...

Five More New Families...
