

## Morning Worship

February 5, 2017

Pastor — Allan Lane	Organ --- Alva Lou Schottel	
Worship Leader — Tim Waters	Piano — Sharon Waters	
<b>As you enter for worship, please silence your cell phones.</b>		
(CCLI permit # 424692 covers all copyright song lyrics)		
Welcome and Fellowship	Allan/People	
Scripture Reading	Psalm 66:1-7	Tim/People
Chorus # 203	<i>His Name Is Wonderful</i>	Tim/People
Worship Prayer	Allan Lane	
Anthem	<i>I Stand Amazed</i>	Worship Choir
Standing for Christ Medley	Tim/People	
# 547	<i>I Stand Amazed in the Presence</i>	
# 335	<i>Standing on the Promises</i>	
# 485	<i>Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus</i>	
Offering Prayer	Fred Kerns	
Tithes and Offerings	People	
Offering Music	Sharon Waters	
Children's Worship	(Children are dismissed)	
Message	<i>Malachi: Be Responsive</i>	Allan Lane
	Malachi 1:1-5	
Hymn # 285	<i>Wherever He Leads, I'll Go</i>	Tim/People
Prayer Concerns	Allan/People	
Chorus # 457	<i>Lord, Be Glorified</i>	Tim/People

## Malachi: Be Responsive

Malachi 1:1      February 4, 2017 am

So Malachi came at a time when God's people needed to return to Him. The opening message to the people is a call for them to respond to God's love. "Malachi" means "messenger." The word "oracle," could be translated, "burden." The burden carried by the messenger of God was for God's people to return to the God who loved them.

In this opening message of God's messenger, we learn four things about the love of God.

### 1. God's Love is Persistent . (verse 2a)

Such is the idea behind the phrase "I have loved you." There had been a temptation among the people to believe that, because they had struggled, because things hadn't been easy, and because the temple that had been rebuilt couldn't begin to compare to the glory of the temple of Solomon, that God didn't love His people anymore. But nothing could be farther from the truth.

Likewise, you need to understand God's love for you is a persistent love, one that will not quit, and is very real, despite the fact that you may be going through difficult times or difficult circumstances that would lead you to believe otherwise.

A man and his little daughter buried the mother of the home. They were broken-hearted when they returned to their house after the funeral, things were so different.

As the father tucked his little girl in for the night, she commented on how dark it was that particular evening. But then she added, "But Papa, you love through the dark, don't you?" Later that evening, as the man was preparing to go to bed, he whispered a prayer to God in which, inspired by his daughter's faith, he prayed, "Dear Lord, our lives seem so dark without my dear wife. But I am glad that You love through the dark."

This was Paul's declaration in Romans 8:35-39.

## **2. God's Love is Purposeful . (verse 2b)**

The reference to God's love for Jacob here is a reference to God's sovereign purpose for Jacob and his descendants. God was going to bring the Messiah into the world through Jacob. God's love was purposeful. Likewise, God's love for you and me is such that He has a purposeful, meaningful, life planned for each and every one of us. Did you know that God delights in you? "For the LORD takes delight in his people" (Psalm 149:4).

Devon Huss said "Does it help to think that God delights in you? Think about it! I don't care how ugly you think you are. You are God's delight. I don't care how fat you are. You are God's delight. Even if your marriage seems such a struggle, you are God's delight. Even if you are divorced, your self-esteem wrecked. You are God's delight. Even if you are so depressed your life feels like a black hole. You are God's delight. Even if you threw a pity party and nobody showed up. You are God's delight. God doesn't abandon you because your business collapsed. You are God's delight. God doesn't leave you because your face is all wrinkled. You are God's delight. Now, instead of wasting all that energy trying to prove to everybody that you are worth something, you can start with this idea that you already are somebody because we are the one in whom God delights!"

## **3. God's Love is Passionate . (verses 3-4)**

How are we to understand what the prophet says here? I believe he is using hyperbole - a figure of speech that is an exaggeration. When someone says "I have called you a thousand times," we don't take them literally; they are overstating the case to make a point. Hyperboles are found throughout Scripture, like Luke 14:26, where Jesus was spoke of the need to give Him supreme devotion.

Sometimes hyperboles are comparative. Like, "If I've told you once, I've told you a thousand times." Which is it, 1 or 1,000? Obviously, this is not to be taken literally. The point is - you know what I have told you. Malachi uses a comparative hyperbole familiar to his day. Kittel's Theological Dictionary of the New Testament calls it a Hebraism. In other words, it was a figure of speech common to Hebrew culture. Like "LOL" of "K" in our modern text messaging.

Malachi is overstating the case to make a point. God is sovereign, and He alone determines the purpose for each of our lives. This is the same point Paul makes in Romans 9:10-13. When it came to the purpose God had for Jacob and his descendants, that purpose was not what God had in mind for Esau. But it didn't mean God had no purpose for Esau. It is unlikely that God would bless Esau with fathering a nation (Edom) if he truly hated him in the literal sense of the word as we use it today. But God's purpose for Esau's descendants wasn't being fulfilled.

God was passionately seeking to bring them to the end of themselves and calling them to respond to His love. But instead of turning to God, they would redouble their commitment to trust in themselves.

Charles Stanley said "God allows adversity into our life to turn our attention to Him. And while it can be painful to endure, it leads us into a deeper relationship with Him and saves us from future destruction. If you hear the Lord 'pounding' through adversity in your life, respond quickly by opening the door to Him."

When it comes to responding to God's love, there are those who are accepting, those who are apathetic, and those who are antagonistic. A believer is one who has accepted God's love. But the apathetic can be either a believer or a non-believer. One who is antagonistic toward God's love is steeped in rebellion and unbelief. Edom was steeped in antagonism toward the love of God. The believers within Israel had grown apathetic toward God's love and consequently, were influencing unbelievers among them to be apathetic, if not antagonistic. Through the prophet, God was warning Israel that they were getting a step closer to being where Edom was in their relationship with God; and He was calling them to respond by accepting the love of God.

God has a sovereign purpose for each of us today. But it can only be fulfilled as we accept His love as revealed in the person of Christ (Ephesians 2:10).

#### **4. God's Love is Pursuing . (verse 5)**

God's choice of Jacob and rejection of Esau had nothing to do with salvation but with the development of the kingdom of God. Israel was chosen to be God's missionary people so His name would be exalted to the ends of the earth and so that all men everywhere might be saved.

K.P. Yohannan said in the Gospel for Asia "Walk away from your own preoccupations . . . and see the perishing multitudes."

God called Israel to walk away from their preoccupations to respond to His love and to share that love with others. God calls each of us who have accepted His love as revealed in Christ to join Him in the work of pursuing and persuading others to accept God's love by accepting Christ. We are called to be messengers for God just like Malachi.

#### **Conclusion**

A certain medieval monk announced he would be preaching next Sunday evening on "The Love of God." As the shadows fell and the light ceased to come in through the cathedral windows, the congregation gathered. In the darkness of the altar, the monk lighted a candle and carried it to the crucifix. First of all, he illuminated the crown of thorns, next, the two wounded hands, then the marks of the spear wound. In the hush that fell, he blew out the candle and left the chancel. There was nothing else to say.

God was pursuing that love relationship with antagonistic Edom; He was pursuing it with apathetic Israel; and He is pursuing it with you today in Christ. Where are you in your response to the love of God?

Antagonistic? Apathetic? Or accepting?

#### ***God Is Pursuing You!***

### **Are You Ready for Some Football?**

The Day is finally here. The Atlanta Falcons and New England Patriots will meet in Houston, Texas, for the last game of the 2016 season. Both teams have had great seasons and made it to the big game by handily beating their opponents in the divisional championship games. One team will walk away with a trophy that says they are the best in the world. No matter who wins both teams will be filled with emotions. 300 pound grown men will be seen crying on the

sidelines, whether they win it or not. Football warriors will be weeping emotionally because they won the prize, or because they lost it.

I believe the money means nothing to them at this point. The endorsements and publicity and all the hoopla means nothing compared to winning that diamond encrusted football. Winning means they are the best team in professional football in the world. It will be the highlight of their life. They are on the pinnacle right then and they are overcome upon reaching a lifetime goal.

There are a lot of fantastic men in the football hall of fame who never won that trophy. Men like Dan Marino and Dick Butkus and Earl Campbell and Eric Dickerson – who, by the way, still holds the record for most rushing yards in a season. How about Barry Sanders and Gale Sayers and Fran Tarkington? These guys were so good that they made the Hall of Fame but never won a Super Bowl. So to win that trophy is a fantastic blessing.

The Super Bowl could be compared to the Spiritual walk of a Christian. Let me point out some similarities. First of all, there is a great crowd of witness watching. Hebrews 12 tells us, "Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses..." All around the world people will be watching the game tonight. It is the most watched sporting event of the year. TV, Radio, Internet, Satellite – every kind of media in every language you can think of will be showing this game. Billions of eyes will be fixated on the game. More snack food will be sold for this day than any other. More beverages will be consumed than any other. More people will gather together than just about any other day of the year. There is going to be a "great crowd of witnesses" to this game.

There is a great crowd of witnesses to your life, too. Do you realize that you are not in this by yourself? In Scripture we are reminded that there is a great crowd of witnesses; there is a crowd of people who have gone on before. They may be watching us. They are cheering us on (Luke 15:8-10). Can you imagine that? Angels rejoiced in heaven when you repented and came to the Lord. Angels and maybe the citizens of heaven wildly celebrated when you prayed your 'sinner's prayer.'

Your life may have begun with a celebration. Some parents send out cards and pass out candy cigars and throw confetti and maybe a party when their child is born. But it is nothing like the celebration when you accept Jesus Christ as your personal Savior. Heaven rejoices.

But there is an ever bigger celebration promised in our future. Isaiah the prophet touched on this a lot (Isaiah 51:11, 65:17-18, 11:6-9). Wouldn't it be wonderful to win something like the Super Bowl? Wouldn't it be wonderful to stand atop the podium at the Olympics Games and receive that gold medal (1 Corinthians 9:25)? Let me tell you, the Super Bowl, the Olympics, the Indianapolis 500 and all the other events combined – will not compare to winning the prize of heaven (Romans 8:18).

God Bless You!

Bro. Allan

## Opportunities For Service

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

#### 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

**Sunday, January 12, 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

January Bible Study.....Noon

No Evening Worship.....

**Tuesday, February 14**

Valentine's Day

**Wednesday, February 15**

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

**Thursday, February 16**

O Team.....6:30 pm

**Up-Coming Events.....**

**February 6 — Senior Adult Council Meeting 10 am**

Food Kitchen 5:30 pm

**February 8 — Prayer Warriors**

**February 12 — Food Pantry Collection Day**

— January Bible Study at Noon

**February 14 — Valentine's Day**

**February 16 — Food Pantry Day**

**March 4 — Kevin Rowe in Concert 4-5 pm**

**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***

Next Sunday, February 12, 2017

Following the morning worship service with a lasagna lunch that will be provided. Just bring a dessert. Please plan to attend. Randy Harr will lead Session 3—*Why Are We Unfaithful to One Another?* (Malachi 2:10-16)

Tim Waters will lead Session 4— *Where Is the God of Justice?*  
(Malachi 2:17-3:5)

### **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!

**KEVIN ROWE  
COUNTRY  
GOSPEL SINGER IN CONCERT**  
here at  
**Calvary Baptist Church**  
**March 4, 2017**  
**4-5 pm**  
**A church-wide**  
**fellowship will follow.**

**Save the Date!**

**Area Men's Retreat**  
**August 19, 8 am to 3 pm**  
**Frederick Boulevard Baptist Church**

***For the Record-***

**Attendance: January 29, 2017**

Sunday School.....	37
Visitors.....	7
Total.....	44
Contacts Made.....	6
Morning Worship.....	43
Children's Worship.....	17
January Bible Study.....	14
Wednesday Night .....	16

**Financial Record:**

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

**Offering Received by Mail:**

George Ferbert

**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 ...***

Claud McClain—leg amputated

Tracy Maisel and Tim Ford

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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