

When Life is Unfair



Have you ever gone through a tough or painful experience and felt that life is not fair—or perhaps that God does not care? From that experience you can get a sense of what the people in Malachi's day were going through and God's instruction for them—and for us.

Introduction: God is holy and faithful

"For I am the LORD, I do not change;

therefore you are not consumed, O sons of Jacob. Mal 3:6

Heb 13:8 says, "Jesus is the same yesterday, today and forever" God continues to make provision for us—even in the worst of times.

A. Does God Care? Mal 2:17

1. After the return from exile and the rebuilding of the temple the people expected God to fulfill His promise with prosperity.
2. Both Moses' tabernacle and Solomon's temple were filled with the visible glory of God so why not in the now rebuilt temple?
3. This struggle is seen many times in scripture:
Psalm 73:1-17; Jeremiah 12:1-14; Habakkuk 1:1-4

B. God Does Care: Here's How Mal 3:1-5

1. God's **provision** for us is Jesus :1-2
 - a. The coming of the Messiah
 - John the Baptist is the messenger *Mat 11:10*
 - (*vs :1*) Jesus is the 'messenger of the covenant' Maranatha (*1 Cor 16:22*) the owner of the temple comes the first time.
 - (*vs :2*) Jesus comes a second time: The day of the LORD. *Mal 4:5* The day of judgment.
2. God's **process** for us is to purify us :3-4
 - a. Refiners fire and purifier of silver
 - Coram Deo: the face (*presence*) of God. Silver was said to be pure when the refiner could see his face in molten silver. *1 Thes 5:22*
 - Fullers' soap was combined with beating a garment on a rock to cleanse it. Christ is the rock of our salvation.
 - Like the sons of Levi—we are called to a priesthood of purity and service *1 Pet 2:5; 9*
3. God's **promise** in judgment :5

Here is a partial list of the things that God judges and desires that believers have nothing to do with.

What does God want to purge from your life?

Malachi 2:17-3:5

2:17 You have wearied the LORD with your words; "Yet you say, "In what way have we wearied *Him?*" In that you say, "Everyone who does evil *Is good in the sight of the LORD, And He delights in them,*" Or, "Where is the God of justice?"

3:1 "Behold, I send My messenger, and he will prepare the way before Me. And the Lord, whom you seek, will suddenly come to His temple, even the Messenger of the covenant, in whom you delight. Behold, He is coming," Says the LORD of hosts.

:2 "But who can endure the day of His coming? And who can stand when He appears? For He *is like a refiner's fire and like launderers' soap.*

:3 He will sit as a refiner and a purifier of silver; He will purify the sons of Levi, and purge them as gold and silver, that they may offer to the LORD an offering in righteousness.

:4 "Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasant to the LORD, as in the days of old, as in former years.

:5 And I will come near you for judgment; I will be a swift witness against sorcerers, against adulterers, against perjurers, against those who exploit wage earners and widows and orphans, and against those who turn away an alien— Because they do not fear Me," says the LORD of hosts.

Mal 3:6 *"For I am the LORD, I do not change; therefore you are not consumed, O sons of Jacob.*