Malachi – Reconnect with God's Blessings

What do we owe God? How do we even begin to answer a question like that given the magnitude of what God has done for us? Unfortunately, the Israelites in the Old Testament have turned away from YHWH's commands, despite all the wonderful things that he has done for them. This is why they are going through such suffering because they have been robbing YHWH.

Instead, YHWH calls them back and promises that if they return to him, they will experience his blessings on a scale that they have never seen. Unfortunately, many Christians have misinterpreted this, and applied this passage immediately to our situation today. They claimed that this is a promise from God that if they donate generously to that particular person's ministry or a church, then they will be financially blessed abundantly. Unfortunately, this has done great harm to many people within the church. How then should we read and interpret this passage? Let's look at the passage in context.

Launch

1) What are some ways that God can bless us?

God's Covenantal Blessings

Read Malachi 3:6-12

2) What was YHWH referring to when he mentioned that he does not change? (v6) (cf. Gen 17:3-14)

3) What was the result of the unchanging nature of YHWH? (v6)

4) What have the Israelites done since the time of their ancestors? What can they do to return? (v6-7)

5) How are the Israelites are robbing YHWH and what are the consequences? (v8-9)

6) What is the result of the Israelites returning back to YHWH by once again bringing the appropriate tithes to God? (v10-11)

7) What will the nations be calling them? Why is that the case? (v12)

8) The Israelites "robbed" from God through their tithes and offerings. How do you think we are robbing God today in our worship?

Read Romans 12:1-2

9) What is the demand for us today as an appropriate sacrifice or offering to God? (v1)

10) What do you think that looks like today and what are the common areas that we fail in as living sacrifices?

11) What are some blessings of obeying God's commands?

12) Do you think the nations will look at the church and call us blessed today if we are obedient to God's commands?

13) Which areas of life do you think that the nations will look at Christians and call us a delightful people?

    a. How about your yourself? Which areas of your life do you think your friends will find delightful?

YHWH promised to bring unimaginable blessings to the Israelites if they would just turn from their sins back to YHWH himself. They robbed God in their tithes and offerings. This resulted in them being put under a curse. YHWH could have wiped all of them out because of their sins, but he was patient, unlike mankind. YHWH urges them to come back to him with true and proper worship, and that YHWH will bless them. In the same way, if we come back to God and follow his commands, we will be blessed today. The manner of the blessing is different compared to Old Testament times. If they were faithful and obedient to God, they will receive bountiful harvest from God. When the nations see this, then they will the people blessed and delightful.

In the midst of our chaotic world today, whereby marriages are dissolving, broken homes, and toxic groups are everywhere, the Christian Church can stand up and show the world that living life the way that YHWH has designed it brings about joy, happiness and blessings. It is incredibly attractive today to show a joyful, delightful and loving community, because we are so starved of it in the world. Thus, being obedient to God is not burdensome, as many have that perception, but rather blessed.