

↪ **Malachi 3:1-6**; God never changes; in theological terms; this is called God's immutability. Malachi 3 gives us three areas in particular in God's relationship with us that never change; these are to both challenge and comfort our hearts. God's passion for purity, His blessings on those who give, and His distinction between the righteous and wicked. We are going to focus on these three for the next three Sundays and see what treasures we can unearth in our lives through them.

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**1. God Passion for Purity, Malachi 3:1-3. Like a "refiner's fire and a fuller's soap"**

- ✓ Malachi mentions two messengers here; the first can be none other than John the Baptist, **Mark 1:2-4**; the second one is obviously Jesus. John the Baptist made a prediction about Jesus; **Matthew 3:11** the exact same prediction that Malachi made.
- ✓ Refiner's fire and Launder's soap are not destructive agents. It's not a word of warning as much as it is a message of hope; Jesus is going to make you better!! There is great hope in knowing that He's not going to leave us the way we are.
- ✓ He's coming as fire into the lives of every single person; either as a consuming fire that destroys those who reject Him or as a refiner's fire for those who are His. Praise God for the escape from the consuming fire, but a refiner's fire is still a fire!
- ✓ **God has plans for your life**; one, that we come to Jesus and believe on Him to escape being consumed; two, that **our lives be so cleansed and purified that we are Christ-like, 2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 3:18; Romans 8:29.**
- ✓ Purging things from our lives that don't belong there isn't necessarily fun, not any more than a surgery to remove a destructive growth is fun. There is no gain without some pain. Gain in the area of purity is the goal, Ephesians 1:22; Titus 2:14. Let's be willing participants, 2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 7:1.
- ✓ The path to purity passes through some fiery deserts, 1<sup>st</sup> Peter 1:6-7; James 1:2-4; Hebrews 12:5, 10.

**2. Ok, I'm going through the heat, how do I endure?**

- ✓ By trusting the nature of the One who's refining you Malachi 3:6; He doesn't change, Proverbs 3:5-6; Job 13:15; 23:10.

**Trust the nature of the One who's refining you!**

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