

CONSEQUENCES OF AN UNCHANGING GOD

October 2, 2016

Malachi 2:10-3:6

“For I *am* the LORD, I change not; therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed.

Malachi 3:6

Malachi was the last writing prophet of the Old Testament era. His prophecy was followed by 400 years of spiritual darkness, with no prophet, no word from God. His ministry rebuked spiritually reckless people who had returned from Babylonian captivity to resettle their homeland. They retained a form of the religion revealed centuries earlier through Moses, but were heartless in their exercise of it.

Malachi rebuked their indifference, sacrilege, and their contemptible attitude toward God. They complained against God, asking “wherein hast thou loved us?” (1:2). When wicked men succeeded, they retorted “Where is the God of judgement?” (2:17). Malachi assured them that the God they sought would appear, but would not be what they envisioned. Rather, He would come to judgment (3:1-6).

He affirmed that judgment would fall upon sorcerers, adulterers, liars and those who oppressed the weak. Our text is a climax to that warning. It underscores the seriousness of their offences, the solemnity of the judgment and the sovereignty of the judge. It describes the judge in three phrases, which emphasize God’s power, character and faithfulness.

I. GOD’S INDEPENDENCE: “I am the LORD”

By His name “Jehovah,” God reminds us that he is the self-existent one. He exists by the power of His own being. He was not created, nor does He need anything to sustain His existence. He is not dependent upon any person, any substance, any environment or anything that can be named. He is totally self-existent, independent of all things. This exhibits His power over all things, ensuring judgment and validating His absolute judgeship

II. GOD’S IMMUTABILITY: “I change not”

Of all the attributes God might have named in this warning, he cites one that is both terrifying and comforting. Terror lies in the fact that His law will not change, because He does not change. This ensures judgment for sinners. He will judge accordingly in the power of sovereign self-existence. Yet comfort lies in the fact that because He is unchanging, His covenant will be honored. Moreover, by citing His changelessness, He interjects all of His attributes into this warning/promise. All are certain because He does not change.

III. GOD’S INTEGRITY: “therefore ye sons Jacob are not consumed”

Although Israel sinned grievously, yet God’s covenant with Abraham will not be annulled, because He does not change. That covenant included the birth of one from the line of Abraham in whom all nations of the earth would be blessed (Genesis 12:1-3; 17:1-8; 18:18; 22:18; 26:4). This one is Jesus Christ (Galatians 3:16), and all who are embraced in Christ Jesus through faith are assured of the everlasting favor from God’s unchanging nature. By the same measure, all outside of Christ are assured of divine judgment by His unchanging nature.

