

Malachi 2:17-3:6

I WILL SEND MY MESSENGER

- I. God's motive for sending His messenger.
 - A. God responds with the gospel of His grace concerning Christ's coming ("my messenger").
 - 1. It is the coming of God's Messenger which delivers Israel from their sins and provides redemption and cleansing.
 - 2. It is emphasized that this messenger reveals God as the God of judgment.
 - B. It is God's immutability which assures the believers who see their sins as that which would condemn them.
 - 1. Though Judah thought God had changed because they were not enjoying "blessings," but He would save them.
 - 2. He is not slack concerning His promise so the day of the Lord will come for us too.
- II. The messenger.
 - A. The messenger of the covenant whom God is sending is the Messiah, but also John the Baptist.
 - 1. Scripture looks at John, the forerunner, as a real part of the messenger (cf. Mt. 11:10; Mk. 1:2).
 - 2. John, like Malachi, bears the same name and office as Christ.
 - B. Further descriptions of God's messenger.
 - 1. The Messenger is identified as the "Lord whom ye seek," i.e., the God of judgment (2:17).
 - 2. He will "come to His temple," i.e., the church (John 2:19).
 - 3. He fulfilled all God's promises and who would bring God's people into the full enjoyment of their covenant relationship.
- III. The messenger's work.
 - A. Christ's work is to cleanse and purify His people (2b,3a).
 - 1. The objects of this cleansing are "the sons of Levi;" a name for God's people in the priesthood of all believers.
 - 2. Jesus' suffering and death removes all our guilt and legally purifies us; then He sanctifies us by His Spirit
 - B. Jesus comes near to judgment and as a swift witness (5).
 - C. The sins He judges are sins not previously mentioned in Malachi, but which were widespread.
- IV. The result of the messenger purifying the sons of Levi is that they now bring "an offering in righteousness" (3b).
 - A. All of God's people are a "holy priesthood" who "offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God" (I P.2:5).
 - B. Such is "in righteousness" because it is acceptable to God, for His grace bears such fruit in us.