

The Corrupting of the Levitic Covenant (Mal 2:7-9)

- Mal 2: 1-3 the curse of a godless priesthood
- Mal 2:4-6 the blessing of a godly priesthood
- Mal 2:7-9 the corrupting Levitic Covenant

God's displeasure with Israel who walk not by faith: Deut 32:20,21; Rom 10:3

God desired inward circumcision of the heart by faith: Deut 10:16; Jer 44

God's people expectant of His deliverer (Gen 4:1; Gen 22:18; Deut 18:15,16)

- Priests had corrupted the Levitic covenant – Malachi highlights two areas

I. The Priests Had Departed From the Way (v.7, 8)

- “priests were to keep knowledge” Jer 2:13; 50:6; Jer 4:3; 2 Cor 3: 14
- “the people should seek the law from his mouth” Isa 8: 20
- Christ fulfills these truths: the knowledge of God/ law of life (1Pet 1:10,12)

II. The Priests Caused Many To Stumble At The Law (v.8, 9)

- The priests watered down & emasculated the law, faithlessness- pragmatism
- In Jesus' day, the Pharisees had reduced the law to ritualism & externalism
- Matt 23: 23; 23:3 they too like Malachi's priests caused the people to stumble
- Jesus warned those who caused his sheep to stumble (Matt 18:6-7; 23:13).
- Malachi God's faithful messenger warns the priests, God will make them...

III. Contemptible before the People for Corrupting the Covenant of Levi (9)

- If the people obeyed the law perfectly = they could be saved but they couldn't
- If they trusted God, by faith looking to God's promise = they could be saved
- The faithless apostasy of the priests obscured the promise, people stumbled
- God would make them contemptible – even when Messiah came who they looked for (Mal 3:1-3) Jesus (Matt 23:37) but there was still mercy (Acts 6:7)