

Malachi 1:1-5
GOD DECLARES HIS LOVE

- I. The fact.
 - A. This prophecy shows that Judah as a whole was ungrateful and thus were unfaithful with cold formalism (1:6-8,13,14; 3:8,14,15; 2:1-8,10,11,14-16,17).
 - B. Malachi, like Isaiah, knows the burden (load, utterance) when God's Word is put on one.
 - C. "I have loved you" is the (should be) heavy message – simple and powerful.
 - 1. The knowledge of God's love is the answer to formal religiosity and ungodly behavior!!!
 - 2. The Hebrew word refers to the action of love of strongly desiring: breathing after or longing for.
 - D. Judah challenged whether God loved them by cynically asking "Wherein hast Thou loved us?"
 - 1. They were looking for the proof of God's love in things and they only saw trouble and sorrow.
 - 2. But God's attitude of love is NOT found in things (cf. Ps. 73).
- II. The right evidence of God's love: it is eternal, electing, particular, and contrasted to His hatred.
 - A. Note well that the proof of God's love is found in God Himself.
 - 1. Nothing proves God's love as well as God's eternal and unchangeable election.
 - 2. The proof of God's love is found also in the fact that God's election is particular: Esau.
 - B. This shows that God's love is ...
 - 1. Free.
 - 2. Personal, i.e., for individual persons.
 - 3. Unto eternal salvation, not to earthly prosperity.
- III. The result of the knowledge of God's love should be praise of God (5) and tremendous gratitude evidenced in godliness.
 - A. God's love is to be believed and confessed because the Bible tells us so; it is not to be questioned and doubted.
 - B. Let us magnify (cause to grow) Jehovah together.