



Going Deeper into

Malachi 2:17-3:5 – “God is Coming to Clean”

1. **The Jews who lived during Malachi’s time blamed God for the injustices and evils that they saw happening around them.**

Review Malachi 2:17; what were the people saying about God? How do we (people in modern times) blame God? Write a couple statements that people in modern times would say about God:

How would you answer someone that is blaming God for the sins of others?

Have you had questions for God regarding the plight of our world, our country, or our churches? Do you believe that the Bible provides answers to your questions? Where in the Bible would you start to look?

Pray: Dear Lord, forgive me for the times I blame you when it is my own sin and actions that bring about bad situations. Show me how to trust in you and to follow your ways. Amen.

2. **In Malachi 3:1, God promises that he will clean up the mess that His people have made.**

What are some personal messes that God has cleaned up in your life?

How did God clean these messes? What things or people did he use?

Pray: Heavenly Father, thank you for saving me and cleaning up my life through the sacrifice of Jesus. Thank you for how you do not forget me even when I sin again, but continue to heal my life. Amen.

3. **Malachi 3:2-4 illustrates the fact that Jesus purifies his people through fire. The purpose of the fire, however, is not to destroy us but to make us better by bringing our impurities to the surface.**

Think about certain challenges that you have gone through that revealed some things about you. What have you learned about yourself after going through them?

Read 1 Peter 1:6-7. What does Peter say will be the outcome after our faith has been tested by trials?

The perspective mentioned above regarding our trials is God's perspective. This is sometimes hard to have when going through a trial. What can we do to remind ourselves of the purpose of our fiery trials?

Pray: God, forgive me for doubting your love when I go through trials; help me to stay focused on your perspective of this world. Amen

4. **Malachi 3:2-5 has its ultimate fulfillment in the Day of the Lord, when Jesus returns.**

Read 1 Corinthians 3:12-15, as it refers to our works being tested by Christ at the Day of the Lord. What type of works do you believe will be burned up in Christ's examination? What type of works will remain?

What does 1 Corinthians 3:15 say will happen to a Christian whose service does not pass the final examination?

In light of having your works examined on the Day of the Lord, what things do you need to change or continue doing?

Pray: Dear Lord, I thank you that my salvation is not based on what I do, but on Jesus Christ. May I accept your salvation and strive to do the kind of works that will remain after your judgement. Amen.