

Texan Baptist, have for many
years, engaged themselves in
what is called "January Bible
Study"

This year it is recommended
that we make a study of
a very neglected prophetic
book **MALACHI** —

So feeling led of the Lord to do
so, we will preach messages
from this book —

Malachi is the inspired
writer of this book, the last
book in the Old Testament —

I read Verse 1 and immediately
felt akin to Malachi —

He uses the word "burden"

and I thought, my soul is
he saying that the word
of God is burdensome ?

Is he implying, that it's a load
he would rather not carry ?
Not at all —

- what He is saying is this,
- ① The word of God is deep,
 - ② It is heavy —
 - ③ It has a message many would rather not hear.

It is the word of God to His people —

It is God's reminder to His people —

It is God's charge levied on His people —

Listen to verses 2 - 5
(read them)

God's word has made known His great love for you, from the beginning of time —

Yet oh Israel, you dare ask, "What has God done"

Don't you hear it today? Don't you hear people today who will say —
What has God done for me?
I've done it myself,
haven't you heard it? I have.

2/ Then the writer mentions two great men in Israel's history Jacob & Esau —

God said: "Did I not choose Jacob over Esau?"

God said: "Before they were born, Before they were good or bad, I made my choice."

Why? Because it was the best thing for Israel

When Malachi wrote: "God hated Esau" it does not mean "Hate" as you and I know it. It meant: "I chose Jacob, even tho the logical choice would have been Esau" / "It was my decision to make Jacob the Covenant bearer"

Oh Dear People, "God always works things out to the benefit of His people" God did what was necessary to get the right man at the helm — He Always does

Who is Edom, mentioned in
Verse 4 - None other than
Esau, it was the same God
gave him after he sold his
birthright -

And Malachi said: "Edom felt
self-sufficient" // "We were
dealt with in family, but we'd
come back"

How unwilling man is to assume
the blame - How humane it
is to refuse to admit error -
How common it is for
people to refuse to
confess sin -

Malachi said: "But God knew
the whole story" He Always does
And so God dealt with
Edom accordingly -

Why? "Because God loved his
people" Because God
intervened in their behalf"

3/ Keep your eyes open The Prophet
says in V-5 "God will have
the last word"

He will exalt the humble / He
will humble the proud —

Now folks, we need to learn
that lesson we need to
be reminded that God
knows the heart —

He knows the "whys & wherefores"
He knows: "why we do as we do"
And He knows: who seeks the glory ^{for} whom

Malachi said to Israel "God will
deal with the enemy as He sees
fit // "you see ~~the~~ ^{your} enemy is
also His enemy — if "you are
His child" Amos The glory is His

starts
1/17/88

Note Very Carefully Verse 6-8
Harris, Spoke of God's Love and
watch care, the prophet turns
to the response God demands
from His children —

He Says: Our regard and our relationship with God should be a Father/Child relationship

By Nature or Natural instincts, a son is expected to hold his father in an honored position.

(1) Due of Respect -

(2) Due of esteem -

And if they do not, they break the Law of Nature -

God's Word Says: "Honor Your Parents"

If we do not, there is something unnatural about the relationship.

I've heard children say, "But they aren't worthy of my respect"

Listen to me, "That's Not up to you or me to decide"

God's Word does not say, "Honor thy Father & Mother only if they deserve it," It says "Honor Them"

And leave the rest to God -

You see we often take liberties that are not ours -

4) So God impressed the prophet
to expand on this -

"If God is the Father, (And He is)
where is the honor due Him"

God said to people in that day, and
people in this day - "If I Am
Your Heavenly Father" "Render
me honor & respect justly
due me"

If I Am Master (and I am, God says)
"Don't despise my word or my
Admonition"

- ① Don't disregard it.
- ② Don't ignore it
- ③ Don't pretend that it's only for others.

"Fear" as used here means Respect
& Owe If means: Reverence &
Adoration If means: Sacrifice
& Commitment _____

God Asks "Where is it?"
Why isn't it forth coming?
He Asks this Question today
Where is it?

I'm so afraid that the problem today in the Church is the same as in Malachi's day -

- ① God is not held in esteem
- ② He is not given the Honor He deserves
- ③ He is not held in awe / Not Adored as He should be / Not Worshipped as He should be -

He is Not #1, but only One
Service is not viewed as
a privilege, but a choice

It's Not God's way anymore, But Man's way. That matters -

And people today Ask the same Question they did in Malachi's day - Preachers, How Do you say that?

"Wherein have we despised thy Name?"

Oh but listen, "Don't Ask God a Question if you don't want an Answer - Answer

5/ God's Answer was very simple:
"You offerings are polluted"
"You don't give the best,
you give what's left"

Listen Carefully Dear people, "If our offerings to God are not First Fruits (the best, off the top) they do not please God —

If you don't believe me, read Genesis 4 — "Cain brought of the fruit of the ground, BUT Abel brought of the firstlings of the Flock" And the Lord had respect for Abel's offering, BUT of Cain's offering he had NO RESPECT.

Do you know why some believers are not happy? Do you know why their works bear no fruit? Because the offer a polluted sacrifice or offering. It's not the best, It's part of what's left —

And God will not accept it or
bless it —

What is the Best? First fruits
First Place — First time — First
everything — Amos.

Not because I said so, but
because God's word says so —

Malachi writes: ^{Ye say,} "The table of the
Lord is contemptible" ~~what does~~

~~all mean?~~ Ye say the fault
lies with God, but God says:
"No, the fault lies with man, his
sacrifice is an embarrassment to God."

U-8 "Take a good look at what
you lay on the altar Take
a good look at the gift
you bring"

"Blind, Sick, Crippled Animals," "Don't
bother," God says "Your offering
reflects your attitude toward
God" Try it on someone else
See how pleased they are —

Oh Dear People, Listen Carefully.

6/ Only our best is acceptable to God,
Only our best should be offered.

We need to take a good look at
what we offer God, If it's not
our best, we may as well keep
it, "It won't be acceptable to
God"

As we come to the close of this service
it seems very proper that we examine
what we have laid before the Lord —
Was it best, or simply
part of what's been left —

You see, God's Word says: "That which
we offer to God, reflects our
love & adoration of Him — It
reflects our appreciation for all
He's done —

Look at what you offer God
Right Now // Is it acceptable
to Him — oh listen, we
know don't we. If it's
not, then with draw it and
offer First Fruits. First of Everything.