

## God is Unchanging

Malachi 3.6-12

### Main Idea

Because God is forever full (Holy & therefore infinite) God never changes in His nature.

Because this is true, God's character towards His children never change because He is Holy and full, never lacking anything.

### Overview

#### **God Never Changes: Malachi 3.6-12**

- The Lord states clearly that He does not change:
  - He is attesting to His character: Who He is as God never changes
- The evidence of His never changing character towards His people is that they aren't "consumed":
  - God had made them a people (Gen. 15 & Deut. 7) and He has kept them as a people even though they have not deserved it (vs. 7)
- The Lord invites the hypocritical Israelites to return even though they are unworthy of such an invitation (vs. 7)
- Vs. 8: "Robbing" here is not merely about the "tithes and contributions" but the larger problem of their distrust towards God as is evidenced by their disobedience
  - 2.17b, 3.14, etc. evidence the Israelites doubting God...their disobedience in the "tithes and contributions" reflect that disobedience
  - By not trusting through disobeying they profane His name among the nations (1.11)
    - Their "robbing" them is robbing of the glory that is due His name through their disobedience
- Vs. 9: The "Curse" is on them because they are not operating inside the confines of the Covenant that provide them protection, blessing, and joy
- Vs. 10-12: The Lord invites them to 'return' (vs. 7) by obeying Him in their tithes and contributions and by doing so the Lord will:
  - Open the windows of heaven for them
  - Pour down blessing until there is no need
  - Rebuke the devourer
  - Cause their fruit to thrive and not fail
  - Then all the nations will call you blessed
  - You will be a land of delight

### Questions

**Discussion Starter:** Share some things that have changed in the world or in our personal lives.

1. Read Malachi 1, 2.17, 3.14. What is the status of Israel at this time? What are they doing/not doing? What is the result?
2. Read Malachi 3.6-12: In what sense does the Lord not change? What is His evidence?
3. What have the Israelites been like from history? How are we similar?
4. What does the Lord offer them in spite of their hypocrisy, short sidedness, and disobedience? What does He offer us?
5. What does it mean for the Israelites or even us to "rob" from God through disobedience since He is infinite, lacking nothing?
6. What does it say of God that He would offer them such abundance in vss. 10-12?

7. Read Hebrews 13.8. Consider the Gospel implications of this. If our righteousness is Christ's righteousness "imputed" or "robed" over us (2 Cor. 5.21) then what does that mean for us in Christ?
8. Spend some time considering the implications of these things in our daily lives given all our struggles.
9. How can these ideas fuel mission in our lives?

*Accountability:* In what ways do you need to be changed by the One who never changes? How are you particularly encouraged by the One who never changes?