

Buffalo Covenant Church  
22<sup>nd</sup> of January 2012

## MALACHI: GOD'S LOVE LETTER

Excellence Before God:  
In Our Profession and Giving  
Malachi 1:6-9  
Teaching by Pastor Max Frazier

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## "Excellence"

- From Latin word meaning, "to rise out of"
- Dictionary, "to be better or greater than"
- Spinoza, "All excellent things are as difficult as they are rare."
- It is easier to be shoddy than to strive toward excellence.

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## "Excellence"

- Malachi is instructing us in the need for excellence:
  - In our profession
  - In our giving
  - In our service
  - In our use of time

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## Excellence in Our Profession – Malachi 1:6-7

- A. Father-son relationship existed between God and Israel:  
Exodus 4:22, Isaiah 1:2, Hosea 11:1-4
- B. Why was Israel acting this way?  
They did not feel that God loved them.

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### Excellence in Our Profession – Malachi 1:6-7

1. God wanted to be loved as a father  
Difficulties in receiving God's love:
  - a. We are motivated to respond to someone with the offer of some form of coercion.
  - b. We are in conflict with pride and conscience
2. God wanted to be feared as a master

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### Excellence in Our Profession – Malachi 1:6-7

- C. What were the results of this attitude?
  1. God was shown contempt
  2. The quality of the sacrifices were worthless

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### Excellence in Giving – Malachi 1:8-9

- A. Meaningless sacrifices
- B. We treat others better than God
- When you give God junk, how can you expect Him to bless you?

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### Challenge

- God wants your best and He wants it from a heart of love.
- God wants the best of your profession.
- God wants the best of your love.
- God wants your respect and your worship.
- God wants the best of your salaries and financial gifts.

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