

Buffalo Covenant Church
15th of January 2012

MALACHI: GOD'S LOVE LETTER

A Message of Love
Malachi 1:1-5
Teaching by Pastor Max Frazier

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What a Burden! – Malachi 1:1

- Oracle – often translated as “burden”
- A judgment from God that is very strong and is a rigorous rebuke
- Matthew 24:3-14, 24-25, 32-34
- God’s love is not sugary-sweet, but it has teeth

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Smile, God loves you! – Malachi 1:2

- A. Status of the people:
New Temple – but the same old sins
Outward return to God – but no inward bending of the knee
No commitment – just a rehashing of old ideas

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Smile, God loves you! – Malachi 1:2

- B. Their response to God’s love – “How have you loved us?”
How quickly we forget all that God has done for us!

“God, I don’t feel that You love me because You are not doing things my way.”
“God, this is the way we want You to love us.”
“God, I want everything now! I don’t want to have to wait!”

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The Dark Side of God’s Love – Malachi 1:3-4

- A. If God is a God of love, He is also a God who knows hatred
You cannot be a loving person without, at the same time, being a hateful person.

Proverbs 6:16-19
Isaiah 1:14

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The Dark Side of God’s Love – Malachi 1:3-4

- B. What is God saying here?
Genesis 29:30-33 – Jacob had two wives: Rachel was loved; Leah was not loved
Deuteronomy 21:15-17
Luke 14:26
Matthew 10:37

Jacob was God’s first choice

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The Dark Side of God's Love – Malachi 1:3-4

- C. The judgment came upon Edom because they persisted in their sins

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The Dark Side of God's Love – Malachi 1:3-4

- D. What is God teaching us here?
 1. God loves us – 2 Peter 3:9
 2. God must judge our persistent sins
 - Sometimes He does that by taking away all that we have
 - Sometimes He does that by paralyzing us in captivity
 - Sometimes He does that by spitting us out of His mouth

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The Dark Side of God's Love – Malachi 1:3-4

- We cannot continue in our sinful ways without facing the consequences – because God loves us!

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Challenge

- In verse 5 God tells Israel to look around them and notice how He has loved them.
- Spend at least 30 minutes writing a list of how much God loves you. Be specific.
- At the bottom of your page write: Yes, Jesus loves me, the Bible tells me so.
- Post the list somewhere and be reminded of His love.

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