

Respect His Robes

Malachi 2:17 - 3:7

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I have an idea that the last verse of chapter 2 was meant to belong with what we have as chapter 3. The people's harsh question, "where is the God of justice?" kicks back like a chain saw.

- They want God to judge those who have hurt them.
- They forget the Judge will need to deal with them too!

Before we ask God to send Jesus to deal with the wickedness in the world, we need to consider whether we are ready to see Him ourselves.

- I. He is a God of Justice
- II. He is a God of Mercy
- III. He is a God of Cleansing
 - A. The standard is high
 - B. The process is hard
 1. Smelting
 2. Scrubbing
 3. Switching
 - C. The purpose is holiness

Some women in a small church were getting together to have Bible study. While reading the third chapter of Malachi they came upon a remarkable expression in the third verse: "And He shall sit as a refiner and purifier of silver." One lady's opinion was that it was intended to convey the view of the sanctifying influence of the grace of Christ. Then, she proposed to visit a silversmith and report to them what he said on the subject. She went accordingly and without telling the object of her errand, begged to know the process of refining silver, which he fully described to her. "But sir" she said, "do you sit while the work of refining is going on?" "Oh, yes, madam," replied the silversmith; "I must sit with my eye steadily fixed on the furnace, for if the time necessary for refining be exceeded in the slightest degree, the silver would be injured." The lady at once saw the beauty, and comfort too, of the expression, "He shall sit as a refiner and purifier of silver." Christ sees it needful to put His children into a furnace; His eye is steadily intent on the work of purifying, and His wisdom and love are both engaged in the best manner for them. Their trials do not come at random; "the very hairs of your head are numbered." As the lady was leaving the shop, the silversmith called her back, and said he had forgotten to mention that the only way that he knows when the process of purifying is complete is when he sees his own image reflected in the silver.

So What?

- Jesus came the first time to be the Savior
- Jesus will come the next time to be the Judge
- Jesus will call each of us to "give an account" (Romans 14:11-12)
- Jesus wants us to take Him seriously now