

THE BOOK OF MALACHI – “MESSENGERS OF THE LORD”

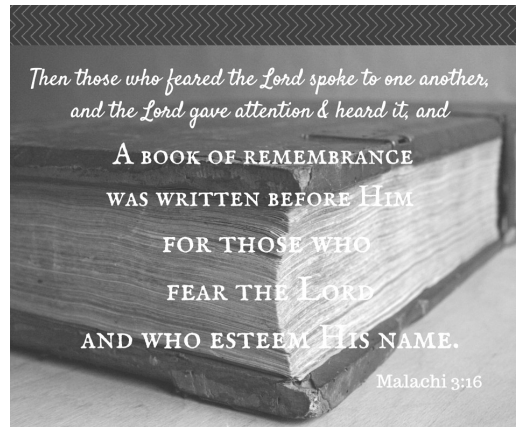
Trinity Lutheran Church – Norman, OK.

Date: 6-9-19 Lesson: 15

Theme: As messengers of the Lord:

- Then and now, proclaim to each generation
The Law and The Gospel
- Properly distinguished - but boldly spoken

A. THE TEXT: (Malachi 3:16-18)



(1) *"Behold, I send my messenger and he will prepare the way before me. And **the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple**; and **the messenger of the covenant** in whom you delight, behold, **he is coming, says the Lord of hosts**. (2) But who can endure **the day of his coming**, and who can stand **when he appears**? For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap. (3) He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the sons of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, and they will bring offerings in righteousness to the Lord.*

(4) *Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to **the Lord** as in the days of old and as in former years.*

(5) *"Then **I will draw near** to you for judgment. **I will be a swift witness** against the sorcerers, against the adulterers, against those who swear falsely, against those who oppress the hired worker in his wages, the widow and the fatherless, against those who thrust aside the sojourner, and do not **fear me**, says **the Lord of hosts**.*

(6) *"For **I the Lord do not change**; therefore you, O children of Jacob, are not consumed. (7) From the days of your fathers you have turned aside from **my statutes** and have not kept them. Return to **me**, and **I will return** to you, says **the Lord of hosts**. But you say, 'How shall we return?'*

(8) *Will man rob **God**? Yet you are robbing me. But you say, 'How have we robbed you?' In your tithes and contributions. (9) You are cursed with a curse, for you are robbing **me**, the whole nation of you. (10) Bring the full tithes into the storehouse, that there may be food in **my house**. And thereby put **me** to the test, says **the Lord of hosts, if I will not** open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you a blessing until there is no more need.*

(11) ***I will rebuke** the devourer for you, so that it will not destroy the fruits of your soil, and your vine in the field shall not fail to bear, says **the Lord of hosts**. (12) Then all nations will call you blessed, for you will be a land of delight, says **the Lord of hosts**. (13) "Your words have been hard against me, says **the Lord**. But you say, 'How have we spoken against **you**?' (14) You have said, 'It is vain to serve **God**. What is the profit of our keeping his charge or of walking as in mourning before the **Lord of hosts**? (15) And now we call the arrogant blessed. Evildoers not only prosper but they put **God** to the test and they escape.'"*

(16) Then those who feared **the Lord** spoke with one another. **The Lord** paid attention and heard them, and a **book of remembrance** was written **before him** of those who feared **the Lord** and esteemed **his name**. (17) "They shall be mine, says **the Lord of hosts**, in the day when **I make up** my treasured possession, and **I will spare** them as a man spares his son who serves **him**. (18) Then once more you shall see the distinction between the righteous and the wicked, between one who serves **God** and one who does not serve **him**.

B. STUDY GUIDE

1. A book of remembrance
(Ex 32:32; Ps 56:8; 69:28; 87:6; Est 6:1-3; Is 4:3; Dan 7:10; 12:1;
Lk 10:20; Php 4:3; Heb 12:23; Rev 3:5; 13:8; 17:8; 20:12,15; 21:27)
2. God's treasured possession (Ex 8:22; 19:5; Dt 7:6; Rom 8:14; Titus 2:14; 1 Pet 2:9)
3. The distinction between the righteous and the wicked,
between one who serves **God** and one who does not serve **him**
(Gen 18:25; Dt 32:4; Mt 25:32-41)

C. LIFE APPLICATION:

1. "A book of remembrance was written before him of those who feared the Lord and esteemed his name" – What is the comfort in knowing that your name is written in the Book of Life?
2. "They shall be mine, says the Lord of hosts, in the day when I make up my treasured possession, and I will spare them" - How is it a wonderful reality to be his treasured possession?

D. LUTHER'S LECTURES ON MALACHI chapter 3 – Vol. 18 – p. 416

"16. *Then those [who feared the Lord] spoke with one another.* He is saying that they have not been forgotten in the presence of God. He Himself is writing in a book of remembrance what they are saying to each other, those who comfort each other, who fear God, who do not murmur, who do not become upset because of the good fortune of the wicked.

Who thought on the name of God. That is, they persevered in their worship and piety, even though they were suffering persecution.

17. *On the day when I make them My possession.* That is: "When I shall make an end, namely, of their murmurings and blasphemy, they shall become My possession, or property. That is, they will be revealed as people who belong to Me and already are Mine." This seems to be spoken about the kingdom of the New Testament. After all, the people who were under the Law always murmured and blasphemed.

And I will spare them as a man spares [his son who serves him]. Here He promises that He is going to be a Father who is kindly disposed to those who fear and serve Him, that is, to the believers. When He says "I will spare," He indicates that that kingdom would come not without sin. Therefore, it would be a kingdom of grace and forgiveness of sins, a kingdom of sparing. He says, "At that time you shall see clearly what a great difference there is between the righteous and the wicked, etc." (v. 18).