

Things That Need Revived

Malachi 1:1-2, 6-14

Malachi means God's messenger. Whether or not he was the last of the writing prophets, his prophecy brings the Old Testament to a close. After he lays down his pen, Heaven will be silent for 400 years.

His message was to the restored remnant from the Babylonian Captivity. By the time of Malachi's writing, the people had been back in the land for about 100 years. The Temple had been completed and worship had been reestablished. He mainly addresses the priests, but also the people of that day. He opens his book by calling the message he had for his people, a "burden." The reason it was a burden was, it is a message about God's judgment on the spiritual life of the nation.

The nation had a number of problems. In addressing those problems, Malachi anticipated the questions and responses of the people and he answers the questions he knows they will ask. He does an amazing job pinpointing the real issues.

The biggest problem they had was, their worship had eroded into a form. They were going through the ritual as prescribed by the Law of Moses, but it wasn't real. It may have looked good to men looking from the outside, but not to God who was looking on the heart of man and knows what's inside.

We are in a season of the year when many Churches have revival. I'm glad they do. I'm glad we do. In fact, our revival will start Monday week, Lord willing. I can't answer for you, but I know I need a revival. I need stirred! I need to hear some good gospel preaching! I need to get closer to my Lord!

It is my conviction that revival is for the Church. Evangelism may happen during a revival, but, again, revival is for the Church. Revival should produce evangelism, but it is not about evangelism. Charles Finney is credited for saying: "Revival is a new beginning of obedience to God." I would say amen to that!

There are many things that could and, maybe, should be considered in this message, but time will not allow for all that is needed to be said. So, I pray, the things I feel the Lord has directed my heart towards are some things that will challenge and stir our hearts towards doing whatever we need to do so we might experience revival. I'm sure it will demand we do some repenting.

Let's be honest. As we look at America and the Churches of America, I imagine we all could come up with a list of things that could stand stirring or bringing back to life. Things like rediscovering the ability to blush or to feel shame. The nation of Israel, according to Jeremiah, was having trouble with those two things just before the judgment of God fell on them.

My list of things I believe we need to consider is short: at least it is in my opinion. I will only deal with the things we find mentioned in this first chapter of Malachi. Since the nature of man never changes, the needs of man never change either.

Allow me to say that we will discover in this message the heart of the matter is the heart. **Proverbs 4:23** "Keep thy heart with all diligence, for out of it are the issues of life." Whatever is in our hearts, God knows it better than we do. So...

We Need A Revival of Love For God verse 2

In **verse 2** the prophet addresses the fact that God loves His people Israel. The problem was, they failed to love Him back as they should. Unfortunately, this is not a new problem. It is my opinion that love is the binding factor of all that I will say in this message. Without love, nothing that could happen will happen.

Malachi deals with corruption in the priesthood and second rate service to God. And the reason behind it all was their lack of love for a Holy God!

1 John 4:19 "We love him, because he first loved us." It is nothing unusual for man, who is religious to the core, to be able to go through the motions of worship without any emotion. He can bring the right sacrifice to the right place at the right time and be all wrong! He can even shed tears and weep and still be far from the God he is pretending to be worshiping. True worship is a heart issue!

Matthew 15:8 "This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with their lips; but their heart is far from me."

This truth is seen in the Pharisees. Although they followed the Law of Moses to the letter, they missed the heart of the God who gave the Law through Moses. The prodigal son's brother was so busy working for his father that he never took time to know the father. The prodigal son's father had two prodigal sons: one left home, the other one stayed home. Both missed the heart of the father.

We need a revival of love God just like **Matthew 22:37** says: Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with thy mind.”

(Mark 12:29-30) Psalm 42:1 “As the hart panteth after the water brooks, so panteth my soul after thee, O God.” When we love the Lord just right, we will desire Him above and before all other things. We will give Him the priority due Him. We put Him first in our life. It means we put His will before our will: His ways before ways. We will put His desires for us before our desires.

In **Revelation 2** in the first Church in Asia Minor Church that Jesus addresses, the main problem was, they had left their first love. Maybe that is our biggest problem today. Maybe too many of God’s children don’t love Him as they should.

It is my opinion that we need a revival of love for God!

We Need A Revival of The Fear of God verse 6

Psalm 111:10 “The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom:”

Proverbs 1:7 “The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge:”

If I understand this right at all, it means having a good, healthy, Biblical fear of God is foundational to everything else that has to do with wisdom and knowledge.

I’m afraid that today, we hear far too little about the fear of God. We hear so much about the love of God, the grace of God, the goodness of God, the mercy of God we seem to have forgotten about the benefits of a healthy Biblical fear of God!

Hebrews 10:31 “It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.”

God is love, but He is also a God of judgment, wrath, and holiness. For the lost, that means you ought to dread thinking about standing unprepared before Him in judgment. It means you ought to dread knowing He will one day say: “Depart from me ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels.”

Matthew 25:41 knowing that it will be for all eternity!

For the saved, our fear of God is not one of dread, but of desire as to how we may please Him, honor Him, and obey Him, We need to remember the writer of **Hebrews 11:7** said: “By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house;”?

It is my opinion we need a revival of fearing God as He deserves to be feared!

We Need A Revival of Reverence For God verses 6-8, 13-14

This means we ought to have a revival where we will once again begin to hold the things of God in highest esteem. To reverence God means to honor Him, fear Him, worship Him, give Him what is due His Holy name. We are to honor His Word, His name, His House, and all things related to Him.

It means we ought not to take His name in vain! We ought not to be flippant with His name and says silly things like “OMG.” I’m telling you God takes those things serious! We ought to realize God’s house is not our house! It is a place that deserves our best in dress, behavior, and attitude! We ought to stop changing God’s Word to suit us and allow His Word to change us so we can suit Him.

When there is a lack of reverence towards the things of God, it will be seen in both the attitude and actions towards those things that were once considered Holy.

It is my opinion we need a revival of reverence for God!

We Need A Revival of Obedience to God verse 6-8

We live in such an entitlement minded society that it seems to be shocking for some to learn the world does not revolve around them. I’m afraid too many fail to understand that if they name the name of Christ, obedience to Christ is not an option. I’m afraid too many that profess to follow Christ fail to understand that the Bible is not full of suggestions but it is full of commandments!

Obedience is motivated by love. So, listen to what Jesus said in **John 14:15** “If ye love me, keep my commandments.” (Remember what I said about love early on?)

Romans 12:1 “I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present you bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.”

We are to obey our Lord in all things great or small. We were not granted the privilege of deciding whether we will or will not obey a clear command of the Lord regardless of what we think about it! If you don’t believe me ask king Saul!
In

1 Samuel 15 Saul learned that God is not nearly as interested in some kind of offering or sacrifice as He is in obeying His voice! Samuel told Saul “rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry.”

Remember what **verse 6** of text passage says, a son will obey his father because he loves him and desire to please him. A servant will serve his master because he respects him and fears what he may receive from him for disobedience. If we are sons of God and if we are servants of the Most High God, don't you think God deserves the best from us? Shouldn't we be our best and give Him our best in both service and sacrifice?

It is my opinion that we need a revival of obedience to the Lord!

I told you my list was a short one. There are SO many other things that could and, maybe, should be added to this list for further consideration. Maybe I didn't mention any of your specific issues. But, you know what is either absent in your life/heart or what is presently in there that needs to put out for good.

I believe we need a revival in America! I believe we need a revival in Dunbar! I believe we need a revival in RGT!...but it will reach none of those places until it reaches our hearts individually...do you need to pray...come if you do.

If you are here lost, meaning you have never been saved. You don't need a revival, you need regeneration...you need a new birth from above, you simply need to be saved by the grace of God...won't you come and pray today?

Tom Price, 2023