



SERMON NOTES

June 23, 2019

Scripture: Malachi 2:17 - 3:6 (NAS)

"The Fire of the Lord"

- 17 You have wearied the LORD with your words. Yet you say, "How have we wearied Him?" In that you say, "Everyone who does evil is good in the sight of the LORD, and He delights in them," or, "Where is the God of justice?"
- 1 "Behold, I am going to send My messenger, and he will clear 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 smelter and purifier of silver, and He will purify the sons of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, so that they may present to the LORD offerings in righteousness.
- 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; and I will be a swift witness against the sorcerers and against the adulterers and against those who swear falsely, and against those who oppress the wage earner in his wages, the widow and the orphan, and those who turn aside the alien and do not fear Me," says the LORD of hosts.
- 6 "For I, the LORD, do not change; therefore you, O sons of Jacob, are not consumed.

I. PURPOSES OF FIRE

- A. Consuming
- B. Purifying
- C. God Using It To Make His People Holy *Romans 8:28; James 1:2-4*

II. IDENTIFYING THE REFINER

- A. Three Parties Spoken Of In Malachi 3:1
 1. The Heavenly Father
 2. The prophet of preparation
 3. The Son
- B. Jesus Is The Refiner's Fire

III. MAN'S NEED FOR REFINING

- A. Man Was Created Pure Gold
- B. Sin Entered Causing Defilement And Impurity *Romans 3:23*

IV. JESUS' WORK OF PREPARATION

- A. He Has Prepared A Place For Us *John 14:3*
- B. He Must Prepare Us For That Place *Malachi 3:6*

V. I, THE LORD, DO NOT CHANGE

- A. It Is Not His Wrath That Is In Focus Here
- B. His Covenant Promises Of Love And Mercy

VI. THE FIRE OF JUDGEMENT *Malachi 3:5*

- A. How Do We Avoid It?
 1. It is not that we choose to sin no more
 2. It is that we fear God or trust in Him

VII. WE RECEIVE HIS PURIFYING FIRE *Romans 5:1-5*

- A. It Comes Through Affliction *1 Peter 1:7*
- B. It Comes Through Self-Control *Galatians 5:22-23*