

Sermon Notes

“Turning Hearts, Part VI”

“Responding to the Love of God...With Corporate Commitment”

Malachi 3:16-18

3/26/23

⁵ “Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the great and awesome day of the LORD comes. ⁶ And he will turn the hearts of fathers to their children and the hearts of children to their fathers, lest I come and strike the land with a decree of utter destruction.”

- 1) For the last few weeks we have been considering these verses and their **application** to our own lives and the **days** in which we live.
- 2) Thus far, we have seen:
 - a) That our turning can only be **empowered** by a profound understanding of God’s **love** to us.
 - i) In both his **Electing** and **Performative** love.
 - b) That the overall response to this love will be lives of **worship**.
 - i) Living sacrifices that are **free, pleasing** to God and **reverent**.
 - c) That central to being turned toward him is a **passionate** concern for true **instruction**.
 - i) Impartially **guarded**, taught, and **applied**.
 - d) That these hearts must be hearts of **persevering covenant** faithfulness.
 - i) Through **time**, disillusionment and the **refining** process.
 - e) That these are hearts focused on **proper** priorities.
 - i) Centered on the **house** of God: the **church**.
- 3) Today we see that all these things must be secured through _____ Commitment.
 - a) The central reason for this securing is the concept of spiritual _____.
 - i) _____: a process of degradation or running down or a trend toward _____.
(Merriam-Webster)
 - ii) While the entire universe is subject to _____, it is especially true regarding _____ health and vitality.
 - (1) The standard direction of spiritual health is _____.
 - (2) Only by an _____ of the power of God does it _____.
 - (a) Regular feeding on his _____, empowered by his _____.
 - (3) For _____, this gain often comes in waves of renewal/ _____ of various intensities.
 - (a) The _____ was such a time.
 - b) At these times, those whose hearts have been _____ seek to band together with others, similarly awakened, in order to _____ to what they have received.
 - i) Seeking to _____ the spiritual entropy that led them _____ from God in the first place.
 - ii) _____ is what is happening in our text.
- 4) While we are _____ given a lot of information about this banding together that we see here, and while what we are given is somewhat _____, the little we have, _____ with what we have in

other parts of scripture reveal some of the basic aspects of this corporate commitment that are very _____ for us to understand and embrace.

a) It is _____.

i) There is a _____ nature to this shared commitment.

ii) _____ are written down.

(1) The Book of _____. (_____ time this term is used in scripture)

(a) The text does not make clear _____ wrote it and whether it was _____ or _____.

1. The scriptures contain references to _____ types.

(b) But, in the most _____ biblical example of a renewal moment, the writing down of names and commitments was _____. (**Nehemiah 9:36-38**)

(c) And it seems clear that the speaking going on in verse 16 is a _____ to discuss the matters that God has presented them through Malachi.

(d) And only this kind of formal commitment would _____ God's _____ in verse 17.

1. _____ goes on record because _____ have gone on record. (vs. 18)

2. _____ themselves from the rest.

(2) This is why we have formal _____, for it is a formal _____.

(a) Otherwise, a relationship to a church is like _____.

b) It is _____.

i) This book of remembrance would surely have _____ what this list of people was agreeing to.

(1) Even as the record in _____ did. (**Nehemiah 10:28-31ff**)

(2) Formally _____ the truths of God that we are _____ to.

ii) We _____ to _____ about what the truth of God is, and we commit ourselves to _____ as we commit ourselves to _____.

c) It is _____.

i) Each one commits to using his/her own unique _____/_____ for the good of the whole.

ii) Doing that which is necessary to keep the community of faith _____ and on _____.

(1) One _____, many _____.

(2) Also noted in _____. (**10:28-29**)

d) It is _____ in _____.

i) God _____ approves of these things.

(1) He pays _____ and responds with holy _____.

(2) And assurance that we will, indeed, be _____ from the coming _____.

5) The days in which we live place all of these things _____.

a) Not only are there _____ everywhere of spiritual _____ (degradation),

i) There are many _____ teachings that are not in line with the _____ of God.

b) But, the voice of _____ is also speaking today.

i) Driving us to the _____ and driving us to the _____.

c) It is in _____ to that voice that the Spirit of God has brought us _____.

d) We are told in II Chronicles 16:9 that, "The eyes of the LORD _____ the whole earth in order to _____ those whose _____ are fully committed to him."

i) May the LORD continually strengthen our hearts as we seek to go forward in _____ to him.