

The Whole Truth About Half-heartedness

Malachi 1:6-12

Introduction:

- A. The pattern in Malachi
 1. The Lord gives a statement or c_____.
 2. The people of Israel d_____ its validity.
 3. The Lord gives irrefutable e_____.
- B. In today's study
 1. The Lord charges the priests with d_____ His name.
 2. The priest q_____ the charge.
 3. The Lord points to the evidence of the nature of their s_____.
- C. Today's message warns against half-heartedness in our commitment to the Lord. So let us hear the whole truth about half-heartedness.

Half-heartedness is unthinkable in the natural realm (8)

- A. Priestly responsibilities when it came to sacrifices? (see Lev 22:17ff).
 1. What the priests were to do - i_____ the animal to make sure it was perfectly healthy.
 2. What the priests did - they o_____ flaws.
 3. What the people ended up doing - they brought the worst of their herd as sacrifices - the s_____, the lame, and the b_____.
- B. What is a sacrifice?
 1. It is not a sacrifice to give up the w_____ of your herd.
 2. The Lord set up the sacrificial system to t_____ that sin requires the sacrifice of something good and perfect.
 - a. God sent His only Son to be our sacrifices - He was good and perfect and is called the L_____ of God.
 - b. Sacrifice requires giving up the b_____ to God.
- C. A hypothetical situation
 1. Would you give as a gift to your g_____ a blind, lame, or sick animal? - the answer is that they would not even t_____ of doing such a thing.
 2. If you did, would he be p_____ with you? - of course not!

D. Application

1. How are we to treat our commitment to a local body of believers, called a church? (Heb 10:24,25)
 - a. We are to be in the h_____ of coming together.
 - b. We are to be committed to e_____ one another to love God and one another and to do good works (i.e. God's will).
2. Unfortunately some Christians treat church attendance:
 - a. As un_____ - *It does not really matter if I attend or not.* But Heb 10:24,25 states that we all matter.
 - b. As un_____
 - 1) Some believe that belonging to the spiritual church is all that matters (some quote Matt 16:18 where Jesus said He would build His church, not churches).
 - 2) The New Testament emphasizes every l_____ church as Christ's body (Rom 12:5; 1Cor 12:25; Eph 4:12-16; Col 3:15)

Half-heartedness is unacceptable in the spiritual realm (9,10)

A. The people of Israel thought that any sacrifice was better than n_____ sacrifice

1. Verse 9 poses the question – Will the Lord receive you k_____ with such an offering?\
 - a. It would be better if the g_____ were shut so that no offerings were made.
 - b. The Lord cannot a_____ their offerings

B. Application

1. Many measure a church by it's a _____ numbers, but God measures the heart of attenders.
2. Many get into the trap of getting through their d_____ Bible reading, but God wants His word to get through us (Matt 7:24-27).
3. Many might get into the trap of praying a certain amount of times per day, but God wants us to a_____ pray (1Thess 5:17).

Conclusion – What is the truth about your heart?