

Getting a Spiritual

Malachi 3:17

Introduction:

A. Getting a physical

1. Required for bus d_____
2. Suggested that everyone have one a_____
3. Can d_____ things that you are not aware of.

B. Getting a spiritual (check-up)

1. Requires us to look inward and to allow God to e_____ us.
2. The people of Judah f_____ to get a spiritual check-up
 - a. The Lord gave them His spiritual a_____ but they rejected it.
 - b. Their constant disobedience was a b_____ to the Lord (*you have wearied the Lord*)

C. Today's lesson reveals two things that we must never do or else we will fall into spiritual d_____.

Do not examine the Lord

A. Never deny God's discerning a_____

1. The people of Judah charged God for
 - a. Prospering those who were e_____
 - b. Calling evil g_____
2. The ruling government of Persia prospered while the people of Judah struggled financially.
 - a. Neh 5:4 – some had to b_____ money to pay their taxes.
 - b. Neh 5:5 – some had to sell their c_____ into slavery to make ends meet.
 - c. Zech 8:10 – some of those who hired workers probably l_____ them off as was done 100 years earlier in the days of Zechariah.
3. 2023 survey revealed that 68% of Americans claim to be Christian (but most are Christian by r_____ and not be relationship to the person of Christ)

- a. “Christian” cult leaders have set themselves up as j_____ of God’s word (e.g. Charles Russell who founded the Watchtower Society)
- b. Some liberal Christians have denied God’s word on homosexuality as a s_____ lifestyle (Rom 1:26,27)
- c. Some conservative Christians have denied God’s word on pre_____ sex as sinful (Heb 13:4).
- d. Many have justified themselves in not f_____ someone for hurting them even though it goes against God’s word (Eph 4:32).

B. Never deny God’s personal a_____

1. The temple had been rebuilt for over 50 years and the people were waiting for Yahweh to return to His temple as He p_____ (Mal 3:1).
 - a. *Where is the God of justice?* - They did not deny God’s existence. They denied His a_____
 - b. They became Deists in their view of God – He was merely a s_____ and was uninterested in intervening in their lives.
2. We Christians might get this way when something awful happens to us.
 - a. We tend to measure God’s activity by the g_____ things that happen to us.
 - b. When there is the absence of miracles, answered prayer, or favorable circumstances, we tend to ask – *Where are you, Lord?*
 - 1) Miracles were not c_____ occurrences
 - a) In the days of G_____ Judges 6:13
 - b) In the days of S_____ 1 Samuel 3:1
 - c) In the early c_____ Acts 5:12 was recorded because this was unusual.
 - 2) The overwhelming circumstances of godly people in the Bible were unfavorable, yet God was very active in their lives.
 - a) The Old Testament p_____
 - b) J_____
 - c) The a_____
 - c. The promises we are to hold on to

- 1) Heb 13:5 – His constant p_____
- 2) Rom 8:28 – His promises to work e_____ our for the good of us who love Him.
- 3) 2 Cor 1:5 promises that in our sufferings, Christ's c_____ will be in abundance.

Allow the Lord to examine you

- A. How often should we allow the LORD to examine us?
 1. Not occasionally
 2. But d_____ and even throughout the day.
- B. Things that might keep us from allowing the examination.
 1. Questioning God's c_____
 2. Being c_____ of your spouse, friends, co-workers or other church people.
 3. Being critical of yourself with negative s_____ -talk
 4. Not coming to s_____ with an open mind, ready to receive from God.
- C. How to get a spiritual from the LORD (see Ps 139:24)
 1. Whenever you pray, pray Ps 139:24 in your own words Ps 139:24 (e.g. *Lord, reveal to me my heart. Show me my sin, my wrong attitudes so that I may repent of them and proceed in living your way.*)
 2. Whenever you read God's word, study it, or listen to it ask the Lord these questions according to 2 Tim 3:16
 - a. *Lord, what are you teaching me here?*
 - b. *Lord, what wrong in me is exposed by Your word?*
 - c. *Lord, how am I to correct this?*
 - d. *What practical value does this word of Yours have for my everyday living?*

GET YOUR SPIRITUAL TODAY!