

God's Plan of Salvation:

1. Hear - Romans 10:17
2. Believe - Mark 16:16
3. Repent - Acts 2:38
4. Confess - Romans 10:10
5. Be baptized - Acts 22:16
6. Live faithfully - Revelation 2:10

Announcements:

Sick: Mr. Dowling, Mr. Garner, Mr. Hadley, Ms. Donna Law, Ms. Kim (Ashley Law's mother), Lamar Mathis, Mr. and Mrs. Pete Newsome, Mrs. Owens, Mrs. Siota, Ms. Ward, Mr. Winns.

If you would be interested in any of the following ways to study the Bible, feel free to let us know:

- Home Bible Study - We will come into your home or other place you feel comfortable and study the Bible with you. Bible questions are welcome in these studies and we will seek to give a Bible answer.
- Correspondence courses - We will be glad to mail you a correspondence lesson that you can fill out and mail back to us and we will send you the next lesson.
- Call us with your Bible question - #503-707-6014.
- Visit our website: www.oakgrovechurchofchristjenningsflorida.com
- Come and visit - We always strive to have good, practical Bible instruction at each of our assemblies.

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“Offer it then to your governor!”

By Derek Long

Malachi, the last book of the Old Testament, is set in the period of time following the seventy years of Babylonian captivity. God has brought His people back into the promised land. The people appear to have been cured of idolatry by the captivity but their service to God is still not what it ought to be. Malachi 1:6-14 contains God's message of rebuke to the people for the type of sacrifices they are offering to Him.

In the law, God commanded the children of Israel to offer as sacrifices to Him the best they had. Leviticus 22:17-25 give some of the requirements God laid out for the type of sacrifices which would be pleasing to Him. In Malachi's day, the people were failing to offer to God sacrifices of the highest quality but were offering things like the lame, etc. God attempts to get the people to see how inappropriate such sacrifices were by getting them to think about would their governor accept such sacrifices. While we are not under the Old Testament law today, asking ourselves would someone in authority over us be pleased if we offered them the same type of service we offer to God is a valid question to ask ourselves. Let's make a few applications of this principle to various aspects of our Christian life.

Would a boss or teacher be pleased if our attendance at work or school was equivalent to our attendance at the assemblies of the local congregation where we are members? Hebrews 10:24-25 says, “And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching” (NKJV). God expects us to assemble with other Christians. Some Christians have no problem making it to their job or to school but seem to struggle to be present when the people of God assemble together to worship God and encourage one another. What such a behavior demonstrates is a failure to take seriously our obligation to God!

Would our spouse be pleased if we talked to them as often as we talk to God? Would our spouse expect us to share with them our struggles which we are unwilling to share with God? I am not suggesting that it is not important to communicate with our spouse but I am asking do we fail to talk to God in prayer as much as we ought to. Do we go days without seriously praying to God? Are our prayers to God something we do simply out of habit with very little thought or meaning? The Bible teaches us to be people who are giving ourselves continually to prayer (1 Thessalonians 5:17; Luke 18:1; Romans 12:12; Colossians 4:2).

Would our attitude and attire as we come to worship God be acceptable if it were displayed before a human judge? Human judges require to be treated with respect and such respect is demonstrated even by the attire one wears when standing before the judge. God certainly deserves to be treated with much more respect than a human judge deserves. Hebrews

12:28 teaches us to, “serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear” (NKJV). When we come to worship God, do we do so with reverence? Does our attire demonstrate our attitude of reverence or does it indicate we treat worshipping God casually? If we would treat a human dignitary with greater respect than God, maybe we need to reconsider our actions.

Would a teacher in school be pleased if we spent as much time studying the subject he is teaching as we spend studying the word of God? Would a trainer on our job be pleased if we put as much effort into learning what he is attempting to teach us as we put into learning the word of God? Knowledge of God’s word is important and without it we are going to perish (Hosea 4:6). Gaining a knowledge of God’s word requires us to study just like gaining knowledge about any other subject requires us to study (2 Timothy 2:15). Are we putting forth the proper effort to become people who know God’s will? Timothy was told, “Meditate on these things; give yourself entirely to them, that your progress may be evident to all” (NKJV). Are we meditating on God’s word so we will progress as we ought?

If our commitment toward God is not what it ought to be in these or in other areas, we need to make changes and treat God as the mighty God He is!