



### The Disputations thus far

- the people fail to appreciate God's love for them (1:2-5).
- The priests lack respect towards God by simply going through the motions and do not appreciate their high calling.
  - They turn a blind eye to the second-rate offerings of the people (1:7-14) and
  - neglect to live out and teach faithfully the ways of the Lord (2:1-9).
- The people exhibit covenant unfaithfulness, particularly in their marriages (2:10-16)
- Some have assimilated with the nations and their gods (2:11)

### The Disputations placed within the Covenantal context

- Covenant unfaithfulness remains an enduring problem, even within the remnant who have returned to Jerusalem after the experience of exile.

### Malachi 2:17

God's Justice *Misunderstood* from Experience and False Expectations

- The people wearied the Lord with their words
  - Ref: Isaiah 1:14; Jeremiah 15:6
- Everyone who does evil is good in the sight of the LORD
- Where is the God of justice?

### Malachi 3:1 - 5

God's Justice *understood* from God's Revelation and Rightly Anticipated

- God will send a messenger to prepare the way for Him
- The Lord will suddenly come to His temple
- The Messenger of the Covenant is coming



A. God's Justice *Purifies* His people (v.2-4)

B. God's Justice *Condemns* evil (v.5)

### Malachi 3:6 - 12

God's Justice demands a Right Response: *Repentance*

- The Lord is unchanging – Faithful to His covenant with Israel
- Solution to Israel's unfaithfulness – Return to the Lord (repent)
- Israel's denial
- Proof of Israel's unfaithfulness and need for repentance

### *Conclusion*

- Compare Malachi 2:17 with Psalms 73. Have any of the thoughts echoed by the psalmist ever cross your mind?
  - How do you resolve that dispute in your mind?
  - This may also very well be the thought of a non-Christian who question the existence of a just God or question God's justice. How can we help them to resolve that dispute?
- God's justice demands repentance. In preaching the gospel, is repentance an aspect that we put forth as a demand by God or is it something that has been neglected in our preaching?
- Read Romans 3:21 – 26. How is God's justice different from human justice as demonstrated in the cross of Christ?

“When God sent His Son to die on our behalf, Jesus Christ took on Himself the penalty that rightly belonged to us. In this way, God rescued us from the oppression of sin and gave us His own righteousness as a gift. This is the peculiar justice of the cross. It is God meeting His own righteous demands through the person and work of God the Son, Jesus Christ. Without the peculiar justice of the cross, any attempt to “do justice” is empty moralism. Jesus is the heart of justice.” [John Koessler, professor emeritus from Moody Bible Institute]