



MALACHI

“Refiner’s Fire”

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August 22, 2010

Malachi 2:17-3:6 (ESV)

PRINCIPLES OF REFINER’S FIRE

1. There must be refining fire because we are _____. (2:17, 3:5).

- We have a tendency towards rebellion and unbelief and fall short of God’s glory again and again, so God must refine us.
- God loves us so much that he refuses to leave us in impurity.

2. God brings refinement through the _____ _____. (3:1-4; Isaiah 48:10)

- A refiner’s fire refines. It purifies. It melts down the bar of silver or gold, separates out the impurities that ruin its value, burns them up, and leaves the silver and gold intact. He is like a refiner’s fire.
- It does say “fire.” And therefore purity and holiness never comes easily. And the passion for purity is never flippant.
- **1 Peter 1:6-7:** In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

- **James 1:2–4:** Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

- **Hebrews 12:5–10, 14:** My son, do not regard lightly the discipline of the Lord, nor be weary when reproved by him. For the Lord disciplines the one he loves, and chastises every son whom he receives...If you are left without discipline, in which all have participated, then you are illegitimate children...he disciplines us for our good, that we may share his holiness... Strive for peace with everyone, and for the holiness without which no one will see the Lord.

3. God uses the furnace of affliction for refinement, not for _____. (3:6)

- God is a refiner’s fire, and that makes all the difference. He is not a forest fire that destroys indiscriminately. Nor is he an incinerator’s fire that consumes completely. God will not destroy because he made a covenant with his people, and he will keep his promise — he will not change.
- Jesus, the ultimate refiner’s fire, is the emissary of God’s covenant with his people. He confirms it and seals it with his blood. So his blood is called “the blood of the everlasting covenant.” (Hebrews 13:20)

CENTRAL TRUTH

God uses the furnace of affliction for refinement,
not for destruction.

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