

**Home Group Notes**  
**Week of September 10, 2023**  
**Malachi 2:17-3:6**



Welcome to Home Group Notes. The purposes of these is fourfold: (1) To help us look deep into God's Word and gain understanding of God (His character and His ways), (2) to suggest starting points for rich conversations about what God is saying, and (3) to encourage application, and (4) to call up prayer needs.

The timing might feel a bit unusual because our sermon series began a few weeks ago. But our walk through Malachi has been rich and challenging. All of the sermon series can be accessed through the Trinity Church app or our website, [www.trinityonline.org](http://www.trinityonline.org).

For this week, we are going to combine what we learn from Sunday's message by Pastor Bill Born and our own studies and discussion. Let's dig in

**LISTENING TO GOD IN HIS WORD**

Malachi was written to the Jewish people who were back in their land after being in a God-imposed exile. About 100 years have passed since their return and this and other minor prophets reveal that they are not living according to God's covenant with them. The first two chapters identify multiple gross violations of how God had commanded them to live.

Read Malachi 2:17-3:5 and consider the following questions.

What is the LORD's opening statement and the following question of the people? How does the LORD answer their question?

What wearies the Lord? (2:17)

The people thought that God was favoring the wicked, and asked, "Where is the God of justice?" How do you respond when you hear their question? (Notice God's words in chapters one and two and especially 2:17.)

What is God's main answer to their question in 3:1-5? When will justice be served up?

What / who will save people from judgment? (3:1-4)

Most agree that John the Baptism is the "messenger who will prepare the way" in 3:1. What was his primary message? (Mark 1:4) What does that mean?

If Malachi 3:2-4 is speaking of Jesus, what did He do for the people and for us?

What happens to those who do not “fear” the LORD? (3:5 and see also Exodus 34:7)

What is the good news of 3:6? What do we know about the heart of God? What does God most want for all people? (see also Exodus 34:6, 2 Peter 3:9, and 1 John 1:8-9)

### **DISCUSS TOGETHER**

The people in Malachi’s time were complaining about the lack of justice. What do we see today in America? How do people respond to the idea of judgment in general? (2:17-3:2)

Do you think that we who are striving to reach people with the gospel talk too much about judgment or not enough? What should we say if anything? (see 3:5)

How is self-righteousness manifested in us today? (see 2:17)

### **APPLY IT THIS WEEK**

First of all, make sure that you are fully trusting in the work of Christ for your own righteousness, and that your faith is based on the work of Christ alone, not your own works.

Second, let’s all take a good look at our own compassion for the lost and the danger of self-righteousness creeping into our thinking.

### **PRAYER**

- There are oh so many people suffering right now at Trinity. Here is a list of people to keep in prayer:
  - Jo Elliott, Jan Burgess, and Pat Derksen recently lost their husbands
  - JoAnn Nash is recovering from infection
  - Diane Hill has a serious aneurysm surgery soon
  - Karen Shoemaker had hip replacement
  - Stan Mattson is in hospital in Connecticut with blood infection
  - Emma Alloway began proton therapy 5 days a week
  - Bob Larivee is in chemotherapy
  - John Stark is beginning chemo for lymphoma
- Please remember to pray for your global partners
- Please pray for Trinity as we have many new people with whom we want to connect and serve
- Please pray for our middle and high schoolers who are growing up in a troubled world