The Cry for Authentic Faith

# Introduction: The Final Word of the Old Testament

Malachi was the last prophetic voice before 400 years of silence. He spoke to a people who had grown spiritually numb. Their worship was hollow, their hearts were cold, and their questions sarcastic (Malachi 1:2,6–7; 2:17). Like people going through the motions, they didn’t realize heaven had closed its ears to their offerings. But God speaks hope—a Messenger is coming to awaken what is real. This isn’t just ancient history—it’s prophetic insight for the last days.

# I. Receive the Grace of God (Malachi 3:1)

“Behold, I send My messenger, and he will prepare the way before Me…”  
  
A. Two Messengers in View:  
1. John the Baptist – prepares the way for Christ.  
2. Jesus Christ – the Messenger of the Covenant, fulfilling the New Covenant promise (Jeremiah 31:31–34).

B. The New Covenant (Jeremiah 31:31–34):  
- Old Covenant: External Law, Repeated Sacrifices, Limited Access to God, Temporary Forgiveness  
- New Covenant: Internal Law, Once-for-all Atonement, Personal Relationship with God, Eternal Forgiveness

C. What It Means to Receive God’s Grace:  
- Forgiveness: Our record is wiped clean.  
- Indwelling: God’s law and Spirit transform us.  
- Belonging: “I will be their God, and they shall be My people.”  
- Relationship: “They shall all know Me.”  
  
Grace is not just pardon—it’s power to be transformed.

# II. Recognize the Goal of God (Malachi 3:2–3)

God saves you to sanctify you. His goal: not comfort, but Christlikeness (Romans 8:29).  
He burns away what does not reflect His glory. Supporting Scriptures:  
- Psalm 66:10  
- Zechariah 13:9  
- Job 23:10  
God targets impurities like pride, lust, bitterness, unbelief, selfish ambition.  
Purity of heart enables true vision (Matthew 5:8).

# III. Rest in the Goodness of God (Malachi 3:3)

A. God Is Not Distant in Trials – He sits beside the furnace.  
B. Four Phases of Refining:  
1. God Extracts Us – Salvation.  
2. God Tests Us – Trials break us.  
3. God Melts Us – The heat exposes hidden sin (1 Peter 1:6–7).  
4. God Purifies Us – He watches until His reflection is seen in us.

# IV. Reflect the Glory of God (Malachi 3:3–4)

Purify = “To Make Bright.”  
We are tarnished gold/silver. God’s goal: shine through your life.  
Worship becomes real, life becomes a mirror of Christ.  
- “Let your light so shine before men…” (Matthew 5:16)

# Conclusion: When He Makes Up His Jewels (Malachi 3:17)

“They shall be Mine… in the day when I make up My jewels.”  
  
Let’s stop playing church—let’s be the Church.  
Turn from superficial Christianity to supernatural reality.  
  
When He shall come with trumpet sound,  
Oh may I then in Him be found.  
Dressed in His righteousness alone,  
Faultless to stand before the throne.