

Complacency Exposed

A Study of the Book of Malachi

Malachi is written with at least eight question and answers, each of which identifies (1) a Statement of Truth made by God and (2) a Statement of Dispute made by God's people. It's amazing how many "statements of dispute" we still make back to God: Consider the following:

- I. How is it that You Loved us? (1:2-5)
(We no longer think about it, much less really believe that God loves us.)
- II. How have we despised Your name? (1:6)
(We commonly use God's name in vain removing any reverence to Him.)
- III. How have we defiled You? (1:7)
(We readily give God our "left-over's" or our belated offerings rather than our first and best.)
- IV. For what reason do You disregard our offerings? (2:14)
(We live our lives in blatant disobedience to God's Word and yet expect Him to receive our offerings.)
- V. How have we wearied You with our words? (2:17)
(We have convinced ourselves and others to believe the lie that good is evil and evil is good.)
- VI. How can we return to You again? (3:7)
(We have turned aside from the truth we once knew, believed and sought to obey.)
- VII. How have we robbed You? (3:8)
(We have ignored God's command to tithe and neglected our duties as financial stewards.)
- VIII. What have we spoken against You? (3:13)
(We've falsely assumed that it is vain to follow or serve God—that it does not profit us.)

May God help us from becoming so complacent and neglectful in our allegiance and service for Christ.