

Impact 3:16

Book Of Remembrance

(Mal 3:16)

INTRODUCTION

1. Good Morning,
 - a. Greetings...
2. Series of lessons on 3:16 books that should have a great impact on our lives.
 - a. We have looked at **Gn 3:16; Ex 3:16; Je 3:16; Da 3:16...**
 - b. Today we will look at **Ma 3:16**.
 - i. **Ma 3:16** “Then those who feared the LORD spoke with one another. The LORD paid attention and heard them, and a book of remembrance was written before him of those who feared the LORD and esteemed his name.”¹
3. Background on the text.
 - a. Brother Coffman wrote, “This and the following brief chapter (which is included with this one in the Hebrew Bible) are among the most Messianic passages in the Old Testament.” (from Coffman's Bible Commentary, Copyright © 1971-1993 by ACU Press, Abilene Christian University. All rights reserved.)
 - b. Chapter 3 starts off prophesying about John the Baptizer & Jesus.
 - i. **Ma 3:1**
 - c. Chapter 3 continues talking about Jesus' coming and His impending judgment on Israel.
 - i. **Ma 3:2-5**
 1. **Mt 23:37-38** “O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often would I have gathered your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! 38 See, your house is left to you desolate.”
 - d. Chapter 3 continues talking about God's reason for not consuming Israel...Jesus.
 - i. **Ma 3:6**
 - e. Chapter 3 continues explaining why God had reason to consume them, they had robbed Him.
 - i. **Ma 3:7-15**
4. That brings us to our text today.
 - a. The faithful few are now mentioned.
 - i. **Ma 3:16** “Then those who feared the LORD spoke with one another. The LORD paid attention and heard them, and a book of remembrance was written before him of those who feared the LORD and esteemed his name.”
5. With that in mind let us now examine our lesson for today.
 - a. Let us apply this great truth to our lives and understanding.

¹ All Scriptures are taken from the ESV unless otherwise noted. If other translations are used this is not necessarily an endorsement of the translation.

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I. There Are Always The Faithful

- A. There are times in history where the faithful seemed non-existent
 - 1. Right before the flood.
 - i. **Gn 6:1, 5-6** “When man began to multiply on the face of the land and daughters were born to them...5 The LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intention of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. 6 And the LORD regretted that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him to his heart.”
 - 2. After Joshua’s death.
 - i. **Jg 2:9** “And the people of Israel did what was evil in the sight of the LORD and served the Baals.”
 - a. **Jg 17:6** “In those days there was no king in Israel. Everyone did what was right in his own eyes.”
 - 3. Under Ahab & Jezebel’s rule
 - i. **I Ki 19:10** “...I have been very jealous for the LORD, the God of hosts. For the people of Israel have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword, and I, even I only, am left, and they seek my life, to take it away.”
 - 4. During the denominational reign.
 - i. From about 325 – 1800’s AD the church that is read about in the N.T. is not recognizable.
 - 5. During modern times.
 - i. Sometimes it feels like there are little to none righteous especially in some areas of the world.
- B. This is not the case as there has always been a remnant of the faithful
 - 1. Right before the flood Noah & his family are found faithful.
 - i. **Gn 6:8** “But Noah found favor in the eyes of the LORD.”
 - a. **I Pt 3:20**
 - 2. Under the Judges the faithful, though few, can be found.
 - i. Othniel, Ehud & Shamgar
 - a. **Jg 3**
 - ii. Deborah
 - a. **Jg 4**
 - iii. Gideon
 - a. **Jg 6-9**
 - iv. Jephthah
 - a. **Jg 10-12**
 - v. Samson
 - a. **Jg 13-16**
 - 3. Under Ahab & Jezebel’s rule the faithful few are numbered.
 - i. **I Ki 19:18** “Yet I will leave seven thousand in Israel, all the knees that have not bowed to Baal, and every mouth that has not kissed him.”
 - 4. During the denominational reign the church of the N.T. is not recognizable unless you know what to look for.
 - i. The Chatharsists or Albigenses were those that could very well be the N.T. church in the 1100’s and 1200’s.

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5. Modern times can seem lonely in righteousness but there are many who still hold true to the Word of God.
 - i. Though it is becoming a rare thing to find those that strive for complete and total faithfulness in God it is still far from being considered non-existent.

C. Thus...

1. We must never become discouraged and give up because...
 - i. There will be the next opportunity to find an open heart to God's Word.
 - a. **Mk 16:15** "...Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation."
 - ii. The kingdom of God will never be destroyed.
 - a. **Da 2:44** "And in the days of those kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that shall never be destroyed, nor shall the kingdom be left to another people. It shall break in pieces all these kingdoms and bring them to an end, and it shall stand forever"
 - iii. God will never forsake the righteous.
 - a. **Ps 37:25** "I have been young, and now am old, yet I have not seen the righteous forsaken..."

II. The Faithful Are Always Heard

- A. There has always been a simple truth...God hears His faithful children
 1. Whether it is Noah, Abraham, Joseph, Peter, Paul, Mike or Larry God hears those that strive for righteousness in God's Word.
 - i. **Pr 15:29** "The LORD...hears the prayer of the righteous."
 - ii. **I Pt 3:12** "For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, and his ears are open to their prayer..."
- B. There has always been a simple implication to that truth...God is far from the unfaithful
 1. Whether it is Cain, the Israelites, Christians or any other God is far from those that strive against His Word.
 - i. **Pr 15:29** "The LORD is far from the wicked, but he hears the prayer of the righteous."
 - ii. **I Pt 3:12** "For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, and his ears are open to their prayer. But the face of the Lord is against those who do evil."
- C. Thus...
 1. God will always hear us if we...
 - i. Strive to abide in His Word without wavering.
 - a. **Jn 8:31** "...If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples"
 - ii. Contend earnestly for the faith.
 - a. **Jd 3** "...I found it necessary to write to you exhorting you to contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints." (NKJV)

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- iii. Love the Lord our God with everything we have.
 - a. **Lk 10:27** "...You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself."

III. The Faithful Are Always Remembered

- A. God points out to Malachi and the books readers that...
 - 1. He will remember those who fear Him placing those in the "book of remembrance. The idea of a book is often used by God in the O.T. to show He knows who the righteous are.
 - i. **Ex 32:32-33** "But now, if you will forgive their sin—but if not, please blot me out of your book that you have written." 33 But the LORD said to Moses, "Whoever has sinned against me, I will blot out of my book."
 - ii. **Ps 69:28** "Let them be blotted out of the book of the living; let them not be enrolled among the righteous."
 - iii. **Da 12:1** "At that time shall arise Michael, the great prince who has charge of your people. And there shall be a time of trouble, such as never has been since there was a nation till that time. But at that time your people shall be delivered, everyone whose name shall be found written in the book."
 - 2. The book metaphor is used by God in the N.T. as well.
 - i. **Ph 4:3** "Yes, I ask you also, true companion, help these women, who have labored side by side with me in the gospel together with Clement and the rest of my fellow workers, whose names are in the book of life."
 - ii. **Rv 20:12** "And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Then another book was opened, which is the book of life. And the dead were judged by what was written in the books, according to what they had done."
- B. Thus...
 - 1. We must strive to be "remembered" by God which is achieved by...
 - i. Standing out from the world.
 - a. **Mt 5:16** "In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven."
 - ii. Taking up our cross daily.
 - a. **Lk 9:23** "...If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me."
 - iii. Not losing focus of the ultimate goal.
 - a. **He 12:3** "Consider him who endured from sinners such hostility against himself, so that you may not grow weary or fainthearted."

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CONCLUSION

1. Brethren let us remember what Jesus said...“rejoice that your names are written in heaven” (**Lk 10:20**).
 - a. Let us never be found slumped in despair but rather rejoicing that God has our names in His “book of remembrance.”
2. Question: Have you done those things that are necessary to have your name in the book of remembrance or has your name been blotted out?
 - a. My hope is that your name is found there.
 - b. If you think it might not be what are you going to now do to correct this?
3. Invitation
 - a. For those that are Christians but are not living for Christ repent by confessing your sins to God that He may forgive you and dedicate your life/time back to Him.
 - i. **I Jn 1:7, 9** "But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin...9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."
 - b. For those that are not Christians or for those that think they are Christians and want to know for sure notice what is required to become a child of God or Christian according to God and God only.
 - i. Hear/Study **Rom 10:17; II Tim 2:15**
 - ii. Have Faith In Jesus **Jn 3:16; 8:24**
 - iii. Repent/Turn To God **Ac 17:30; Lk 24:47**
 - iv. Confess Jesus As Lord **Mt 10:32; Rom 10:9**
 - v. Immersed For The Forgiveness of Sins **Ac 2:38; 22:16; I Pt 3:21**
 - vi. Live A Faithful Life **I Jn 1:7; Eph 5:8**