

RETURN TO ME

DOES IT PAY TO SERVE JESUS?

Malachi 3:13-18

Jeff Schreve

“Your words have been arrogant against Me,” says the LORD. “Yet you say, ‘What have we spoken against You?’ You have said, ‘It is vain to serve God; and what profit is it that we have kept His charge, and that we have walked in mourning before the LORD of hosts? So now we call the arrogant blessed; not only are the doers of wickedness built up but they also test God and escape.’” Malachi 3:13-15

What factors are involved when we start to believe the lie that serving Jesus is useless?

1. We have a faulty perspective.

A. Spiritual compromise is a constant enemy.

I passed by the field of the sluggard, And by the vineyard of the man lacking sense; And behold, it was completely overgrown with thistles, Its surface was covered with nettles, And its stone wall was broken down. When I saw, I reflected upon it; I looked, and received instruction. "A little sleep, a little slumber, A little folding of the hands to rest," Then your poverty will come as a robber, And your want like an armed man. Proverbs 24:30-34

B. Spiritual compromise produces hardness and blindness.

*... lest any one of you be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.
Hebrews 3:13*

2. We have a external perspective.

*“You have said, ‘It is vain to serve God; and what profit is it that we have kept His charge, and that we have walked in mourning before the LORD of hosts?’”
Malachi 3:14*

A. We go through the motions of Christianity.

Then the Lord said, "Because this people draw near with their words And honor Me with their lip service, But they remove their hearts far from Me, And their reverence for Me consists of tradition learned by rote ... Isaiah 29:13

B. We forget that a walk with God is all about heart.

Then those who feared the LORD spoke to one another, and the LORD gave attention and heard it, and a book of remembrance was written before Him for those who fear the LORD and who esteem His name. Malachi 3:16

3. We have a short-sighted perspective.

So now we call the arrogant blessed; not only are the doers of wickedness built up but they also test God and escape.” Malachi 3:15

A. We cannot let the temporal trump the eternal.

*By faith Moses, when he had grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, choosing rather to endure ill-treatment with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin, considering the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures of Egypt; for he was looking to the reward.
Hebrews 11:24-26*

B. We must not forget that God is just and good.

Then those who feared the LORD spoke to one another, and the LORD gave attention and heard it, and a book of remembrance was written before Him for those who fear the LORD and who esteem His name. "And they will be Mine," says the LORD of hosts, "on the day that I prepare My own possession, and I will spare them as a man spares his own son who serves him." So you will again distinguish between the righteous and the wicked, between one who serves God and one who does not serve Him. "For behold, the day is coming, burning like a furnace; and all the arrogant and every evildoer will be chaff; and the day that is coming will set them ablaze," says the LORD of hosts, "so that it will leave them neither root nor branch." But for you who fear My name the sun of righteousness will rise with healing in its wings; and you will go forth and skip about like calves from the stall. Malachi 3:16-4:2

*For, behold, those who are far from You will perish;
You have destroyed all those who are unfaithful to You. But as for me, the nearness of God is my good; I have made the Lord GOD my refuge, That I may tell of all Your works.*

Psalm 73:27-28

If you serve God because it pays, it doesn't pay.

If you serve God because you love Him, it pays for all eternity.

*Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always
abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your toil is not
in vain in the Lord. 1 Corinthians 15:58*