

RETURN TO ME

**WHERE IS THE GOD OF JUSTICE?**

Malachi 2:17-3:6

Jeff Schreve



*"You shall not distort justice; you shall not be partial, and you shall not take a bribe, for a bribe blinds the eyes of the wise and perverts the words of the righteous. Justice, and only justice, you shall pursue, that you may live and possess the land which the LORD your God is giving you."*

*Deuteronomy 16:19-20*

*You have wearied the LORD with your words. Yet you say, "How have we wearied Him?" In that you say, "Everyone who does evil*

*is good in the sight of the LORD, and He delights in them," or,  
"Where is the God of justice?" Malachi 2:17*

**What do you do when bad circumstances cause you to secretly question the goodness, fairness, and justice of God?**

**1. Remember that God is faithful.**

*"Behold, I am going to send My messenger, and he will clear the way before Me. And the Lord, whom you seek, will suddenly come to His temple; and the messenger of the covenant, in whom you delight, behold, He is coming," says the LORD of hosts. Malachi 3:1*

**A. He was faithful to come to us.**

*But when the fulness of the time came, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the Law ... Galatians 4:4*

**B. He was faithful to die for us.**

*... in order that He might redeem those who were under the Law, that we might receive the adoption as sons. Galatians 4:5*



*... that He might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus. Romans 3:26*

**C. He is faithful to be with us each day.**

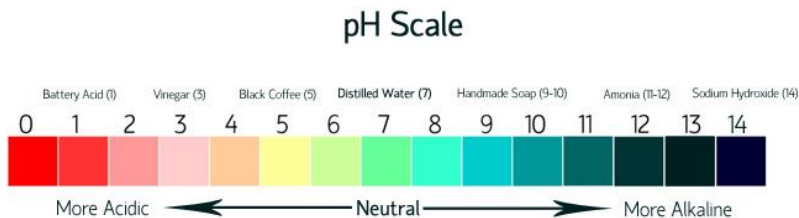
**D. He is faithful to come again.**

*And I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse, and He who sat on it is called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and wages war. Revelation 19:11*

## 2. Remember that God is purposeful.

*“But who can endure the day of His coming? And who can stand when He appears? For He is like a refiner’s fire and like fullers’ soap. He will sit as a smelter and purifier of silver, and He will purify the sons of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, so that they may present to the LORD offerings in righteousness. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years.” Malachi 3:2-4*

### A. His purpose for you is purity.



### B. His purpose for you is Christ-likeness.

*Beloved, now we are children of God, and it has not appeared as yet what we shall be. We know that, when He appears, we shall be like Him, because we shall see Him just as He is. 1 John 3:2*

### C. His purpose for you is always carried out in love.

*“For I, the LORD, do not change; therefore you, O sons of Jacob, are not consumed.” Malachi 3:6*

*He sent a man before them, Joseph, who was sold as a slave. They afflicted his feet with fetters, He himself was laid in irons; Until the time that his word came to pass, The word of the LORD tested (refined) him. Psalm 105:17-19*

## 3. Remember that God is merciful.

### A. We often fail to see our need for mercy.

### B. We often fail to see our sinfulness in light of His holiness.

### C. We often fail to see how desperately we need to get right.

*But who can endure the day of His coming? And who can stand when He appears? Malachi 3:2*

*“Then I will draw near to you for judgment; and I will be a swift witness against the sorcerers and against the adulterers and against those who swear falsely,*

*and against those who oppress the wage earner in his wages, the widow and the orphan, and those who turn aside the alien, and do not fear Me," says the LORD of hosts. Malachi 3:5*

*Behold, the day of the LORD is coming, Cruel, with fury and burning anger, To make the land a desolation; And He will exterminate its sinners from it. Isaiah 13:9*

**Are you ready for His coming?**