

Today, through the words of the passage, we encounter the Jews of Malachi's time who were rebuked for neglecting the precious act of worship. Malachi 1:6 to 2:9 contains a specific rebuke toward the priests. The Bible tells us that all children of God who believe in Jesus carry the spiritual role of priests in the Old Testament (1 Peter 2:9).

In verse 6, God says to the priests, "You despise My name." Once again, Israel responds, "How have we despised Your name?" Today's passage is God's answer to that question. As evidence of their contempt, God points to the way they worship Him.

How can we restore worship that honors God — the worship He desires? Let us reflect on today's message and examine our own worship. May this be a time of restoring true worship to God.

First, We must restore wholehearted offering.

Worship is a response to God's grace. Because God loved us and gave us His best, worship is our desire to offer our best in return.

The Israelites had not stopped offering sacrifices. They still brought offerings, but they were offering defiled bread, blind and sick animals (vv. 7-8, 13). God challenges them to present such offerings to their governor.

Why does God say this? Is it to merely judge them? No, He wants them to honor Him as Father and Master, by giving what is set apart, the best, the unblemished.

What are we offering? Worship is offering ourselves to God (Romans 12:1). What time are we giving? Are we giving our best and most set-apart time? How do we give our offerings? Are we setting aside what belongs to God first and giving our best? What kind of heart do we bring to worship? Are we setting apart our hearts and focusing on God?

If we truly understand that we must offer our best time to God, then all our time and life will also be consecrated to Him. Restoring proper worship transforms our entire lives into worship.

Second, We must restore the motive and purpose of worship.

Why do we worship? Because God created us, saved us, protects us, and leads us. We worship because He forgave us, loves us, gave us life, brought us this far, and because He is the living God, the LORD Almighty.

What is the purpose of worship? It is to glorify God and to please Him. But in Malachi's time, the purpose of Israel's worship was self-centered — to receive grace and blessings (v. 9). This is idolatry. To treat God like an idol is to despise Him.

The goal of all our worship and offerings must be to please God.

A true, perfect, and holy offering has already been given to God — Jesus Christ (Romans 3:25; Hebrews 10:10-14).

**Bible
Memorization**

A VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

“But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.”
(John 4:23-24)

**Bible
Reading**

8/4(Mon)	8/5(Tue)	8/6(Wed)	8/7(Thur)	8/8(Fri)	8/9(Sat)	8/10(Sun)
Isaiah 15-19	Isaiah 20-23	Isaiah 24-27	Isaiah 28-30	Isaiah 31-34	Isaiah 35-37	Isaiah 38-41

QT

Quiet Time Passage

8/4(Mon)	8/5(Tue)	8/6(Wed)	8/7(Thur)	8/8(Fri)	8/9(Sat)	8/10(Sun)
Ezekiel 12:17-28	Ezekiel 13:1-16	Ezekiel 13:17-23	Ezekiel 14:1-11	Ezekiel 14:12-23	Ezekiel 15:1-8	Ezekiel 16:1-14

**Sharing
Questions**

1. Share the grace you have experienced in your life through last week's message or your personal devotional (QT) time.

2. What new insights or grace did you receive through today's message?

3. Reflect on your worship — your offering, your motive, and your purpose. Pray together for the restoration of true worship to God.