

Malachi 2:17-3:5; Titus 2:11-15

Advent Sermon – 12/13/09

Outline for Congregation

Malachi 2:17-3:5: *God is coming to make things right*

- Malachi 1:2 “How have you loved us?”
- Gods’ people have wearied Him with their questions (Mal 2:17-18)
- God will appear – problem: who can stand when He appears? (Mal 3:1-5)

Titus 2:11-15: *The birth of Jesus reveals the wondrous kindness of God*

- The Grace of God has appeared... in the present age (v11-12)
- Waiting for our blessed hope (v13)
- A people for his own possession who are zealous for good works (v14)

Questions for reflection:

1. Why was God weary with their questioning (Malachi 2:17)? We see elsewhere in the Bible that God welcomes those who ask earnest questions and seek Him – what distinguishes the kind of questioning that seeks God (and pleases Him) from the kind of questioning that wearies Him?
2. Titus 2:14 says Jesus Christ appeared and “gave himself for us” – how does this point to an answer for the question “does God really love me”?
3. Grace is supposed to “train us” to live morally upright lives (Titus 2:12) – how should an understanding of God’s grace change the way you behave?
4. Is the appearing of Jesus Christ in the future something you ever give any thought to? If you were fully convinced Jesus would appear soon, how would that change things for you (what you believe, how you behave, what your priorities are)?