

PERVERSE OFFERINGS OBTAIN PUNISHMENT

MALACHI 2:1-9

- God will DEFEND His NAME from COMPLACENT WORSHIP (w 1-3)
- God's DISCIPLINE restores His PEOPLE'S PROPER PRACTICE (w 4-7)
- PERVERTING God's Word leads others ASTRAY and brings SEVERE PUNISHMENT (w 8-9)

FURTHER UP. FURTHER IN

1. Read Malachi 1:6-14. What is/are the crime(s) committed by the priests in Malachi's day?
2. In what ways are you prone to not take it to heart to give honor to God's name (Malachi 2:2)? Consider your family life, work, how you spend your money and time, etc.
3. Read Malachi 2:1-3. Do you think that the curse fits the crime of the priests from Malachi 1:6-14? How will these curses affect the priests? Consider the roles and responsibilities of their office, how they are sustained physically, and how the priesthood is passed from generation to generation. Deuteronomy 6:24-26; Deuteronomy 28:20,29
4. Consider God's covenant with the Levites. What can we learn from the Malachi 2:4 as it pertains to the purpose of God's cursing the priests of Malachi's day? Why would God remove priests from their office? Malachi 3:16-18; Numbers 25:10-13; Deuteronomy 33:8-11; Deuteronomy 31:9
5. We don't have a priesthood in the Church today in the same way as in the Old Testament. Why not? How was the promise to remove priests to restore the covenant with Levi ultimately fulfilled? Romans 8:6 (compare to Malachi 2:5); Hebrews 7:11-8:6; 9:11-14; 10:11-14
6. Read 1 Peter 2:9-12. The Church is called a royal priesthood in this passage. What does this mean regarding the role of the Church in the world? Matthew 5:14-16; Ephesians 5:6-13
7. How do you plan to walk more closely with God this week? How can your group be praying for you in that effort?