

Good News! God Does Not Change!

International Bible Lesson

Malachi 3:1-10

Sunday, August 30, 2015

L.G. Parkhurst, Jr.

“For I am the LORD, I change not; therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed” (Malachi 3:6—KJV).

“I the LORD do not change. So you, the descendants of Jacob, are not destroyed” (Malachi 3:6—NIV).

The Bible reveals good news about God. God is loving and true, holy and gracious. Though we may not always understand our observations or situations, God always loves and does what is true, holy, and gracious, because God does not change. Before Malachi revealed that the LORD does not change, the LORD listed a series of sins that He condemned and would judge. These sins involved misleading others spiritually and mistreating others mentally and physically. God said He would put people on trial who did not fear him but did evil things. If they truly feared God, they would not mistreat others contrary to the laws of God. Because God does not change, His moral standards do not change. Moral choices and practices the Bible declared wrong long ago remain wrong in the sight of God. Because God does not change while upholding His standards of right and wrong, God did not destroy His people even though they behaved hatefully, dishonestly, unholy, and uncivil. Because God does not change, God graciously forgives those who return to him in faith and repentance. One reason God has not destroyed us is because the LORD does not change. What the LORD said in the Old Testament He says to everyone today: “Return to me, and I will return to you,” says the LORD Almighty” (Malachi 3:7). Another reason He has not destroyed is: “As surely as I live, declares the Sovereign LORD, I take no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but rather that they turn from their ways and live. Turn! Turn from your evil ways! Why will you die, people of Israel?” (Ezekiel 33:11).
— © Copyright 2015 L.G. Parkhurst, Jr.

You may reprint or reproduce this *International Bible Lesson* for not-for-profit use. More Uniform Series Bible Lessons are available at InternationalBibleLessons.org.

Thinking Further

1. In Malachi 3:1, who do you think the LORD referred to?
2. What did the Lord do when He suddenly came to the temple and what happened to Him?
3. Compare Malachi 3:2-3 and Matthew 3:1-12.
4. In general, what types of sins does Malachi describe in Malachi 3:1-10?
5. What might be the danger of believing in and acting on Malachi 3:10 while disregarding the teachings in Malachi 3:1-9?