

### Bible Study 3 – Renewing my service – Malachi 3:13 – 4:6

What has beaten more politicians, defeated more sports teams, lost more wars, and closed more churches than anything else? Discouragement. It's opposite to "courage". When you discourage someone, you take away their courage or confidence. Discouragement happens when we get into a slump; and it can happen even in church work and Christian work and in the Christian life. In Malachi's day they were questioning if it was worth serving the Lord. They didn't see any benefit in doing what was right. They found out that it's not easy to serve God. Besides discouragement there was spiritual apathy.

<b>The context</b>	Malachi was probably the last prophet of the OT era. He followed the ministries of Haggai and Zechariah. He wrote to Jews living in Judah after the exile in Babylon. Although they had rebuilt the temple, their worship had degenerated into a lifeless formality and they no longer took the law seriously. And there were mixed marriages with pagans, unjust financial practices, withholding of tithes, and spiritual apathy.
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#### **PART 1** Read & write each section in your own words - Malachi 3:13-4:6

Accusations against God (Mal. 3:13-15)	
Faithful remnant (Mal. 3:16-18)	
Judgment & salvation (Mal. 4:1-3)	
Turn or burn (Mal. 4:4-6)	

#### **PART 2** Things I discovered in this passage

##### 1. What does it teach about God, Jesus or the Holy Spirit?

##### 2. What does it teach about people?

##### 3. Summarize a key verse in your own words.

##### 4. In your opinion, what is the main point being taught in these passages?

##### 5. Which other parts of the passages caught your attention?

##### 6. This book was God's last instruction before about 400 years of silence from the Old Testament prophets. What can we learn from it in view that there has been about 2,000 years of silence since the New Testament apostles (4:4)?

##### 7. Which parts of the passage were difficult to understand? What questions come to your mind?

Let's follow the example of the faithful remnant and not arrogant unbelievers. In the long run it's worth following and serving the Lord.

## Obey

Since God's word is true, what must I change in my life to obey God? What must I do to obey?

I will

I will

I will

## Questions to help me apply this study to myself

- Is there a *SIN* for me to avoid?
- Is there a *PROMISE* from God for me to claim?
- Is there an *EXAMPLE* for me to follow?
- Is there a *COMMANDMENT* or *MODEL* for me to follow?

## Share

## Who will I tell about this Bible passage?

## Prayer

One thing you are thankful for.

One thing that's bothering you or causing stress.

Is there anything this group can do to help you?

Date:

**Who needs help?** What can we do to help over the next two weeks?

## Person      How will I help them?