

DOES SERVING GOD REALLY MATTER? MALACHI 3:13-18

If you choose to honor and serve God, He will choose to value and spare you.

Two views about the value of serving God:

1. View of the Arrogant (13-15)

- a. It is _____ to serve the Lord (14).

"You have said, 'It is futile to serve God. What did we gain by carrying out his requirements and going about like mourners before the LORD Almighty?"

- b. God doesn't "_____" when people disobey, so the ungodly are just as well off as those who do right (15).

But now we call the arrogant blessed. Certainly the evildoers prosper, and even those who challenge God escape."

2. View of the God-fearers (16)

¹⁶ *Then those who feared the LORD talked with each other, and the LORD listened and heard. A scroll of remembrance was written in his presence concerning those who feared the LORD and honored his name.*

- a. God is to be _____ (16a).

- b. God is to be _____ (16b).

God's Response:

1. God _____ his own (17a).
"They will be mine," says the LORD Almighty, "in the day when I make up my treasured possession.
2. God _____ his own (17b).
I will spare them, just as in compassion a man spares his son who serves him.
3. God distinguishes between the righteous and wicked _____ (18).
And you will again see the distinction between the righteous and the wicked, between those who serve God and those who do not.

What should we do today?

1. Connect your theology and ethics: don't just believe "about God" - _____.
2. Don't be jealous of or influenced by rebels who _____ doing well.
3. _____ those who aren't serving God yet.

How I can put the Word into practice this week:

(write out your answer here in your own words and/or go to the blog, www.jerry.harvestcharlotte.info, to see how others are working these things out)