

Malachi 1:6-14 ⁶ “A son honors his father, and a slave his master. If I am a father, where is the honor due me? If I am a master, where is the respect due me?” says the LORD Almighty. “It is you priests who show contempt for my name. “But you ask, ‘How have we shown contempt for your name?’” ⁷ “By offering defiled food on my altar. “But you ask, ‘How have we defiled you?’” “By saying that the LORD’s table is contemptible. ⁸ When you offer blind animals for sacrifice, is that not wrong? When you sacrifice lame or diseased animals, is that not wrong? Try offering them to your governor! Would he be pleased with you? Would he accept you?” says the LORD Almighty. ⁹ “Now plead with God to be gracious to us. With such offerings from your hands, will he accept you?”—says the LORD Almighty. ¹⁰ “Oh, that one of you would shut the temple doors, so that you would not light useless fires on my altar! I am not pleased with you,” says the LORD Almighty, “and I will accept no offering from your hands. ¹¹ My name will be great among the nations, from where the sun rises to where it sets. In every place incense and pure offerings will be brought to me, because my name will be great among the nations,” says the LORD Almighty. ¹² “But you profane it by saying, ‘The Lord’s table is defiled,’ and, ‘Its food is contemptible.’” ¹³ And you say, ‘What a burden!’ and you sniff at it contemptuously,” says the LORD Almighty. “When you bring injured, lame or diseased animals and offer them as sacrifices, should I accept them from your hands?” says the LORD. ¹⁴ “Cursed is the cheat who has an acceptable male in his flock and vows to give it, but then sacrifices a blemished animal to the Lord. For I am a great king,” says the LORD Almighty, “and my name is to be feared among the nations.

Hebrews 10:1-18 *The law is only a shadow of the good things that are coming—not the realities themselves. For this reason it can never, by the same sacrifices repeated endlessly year after year, make perfect those who draw near to worship. ² Otherwise, would they not have stopped being offered? For the worshipers would have been cleansed once for all, and would no longer have felt guilty for their sins. ³ But those sacrifices are an annual reminder of sins. ⁴ It is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins. ⁵ Therefore, when Christ came into the world, he said: “Sacrifice and offering you did not desire, but a body you prepared for me; ⁶ with burnt offerings and sin offerings you were not pleased. ⁷ Then I said, ‘Here I am—it is written about me in the scroll—I have come to do your will, my God.’”^[a] ⁸ First he said, “Sacrifices and offerings, burnt offerings and sin offerings you did not desire, nor were you pleased with them”—though they were offered in accordance with the law. ⁹ Then he said, “Here I am, I have come to do your will.” He sets aside the first to establish the second. ¹⁰ And by that will, we have been made holy through the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ once for all. ¹¹ Day after day every priest stands and performs his religious duties; again and again he offers the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins. ¹² But when this priest had offered for all time one sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God, ¹³ and since that time he waits for his enemies to be made his footstool. ¹⁴ For by one sacrifice he has made perfect forever those who are being made holy. ¹⁵ The Holy Spirit also testifies to us about this. First he says: ¹⁶ “This is the covenant I will make with them after that time, says the Lord. I will put my laws in their hearts, and I will write them on their minds.”^[b] ¹⁷ Then he adds: “Their sins and lawless acts I will remember no more.”^[c] ¹⁸ And where these have been forgiven, sacrifice for sin is no longer necessary.*

1. Review the passages of scripture above: What is the bible saying to you?
2. What should be our attitude and manner of our giving to God?
3. Why is the manner in which we give to God important?
4. What is the relationship between the attitude of our giving and our connection to God?
5. What can we do with this type of information? What have you learned from this word?

When we offer to God, we give to the one who truly owns all things. God owns everything. When God gives you something you have to give back. You don't keep what belongs to God until He says timeout. You did not enter this world with anything material and you will not exit this world with anything material. All believers should tithe. It's a basic practice and we have to do it in order to be obedient to God.

When we come to sacrifice and offerings, we need to remind ourselves that we are bringing to God what belongs to him. A time will come when we must give it back into the hands of another steward or custodian. While we are here, we need to use it in a manner that pleases Him.

Leviticus 17:11 – ¹¹ *For the life of a creature is in the blood, and I have given it to you to make atonement for yourselves on the altar; it is the blood that makes atonement for one's life.*^l

The atonement is for yourself –

- When you work, at the end of a period, your employer gives you a check, which represents your energy, time and sweat of your blood – it represents the reaping and working of the blood inside you. You receive from the giving of your work. The money you get represents that the work of you.

In 2 Corinthians 8:9, the collection the Macedonians were putting together was money. The manner in which sacrifices are made is as important as or more important than the sacrifice that is brought to God. God is interested in the manner in which it is presented.

God in Malachi is speaking through His servant to a people giving sick, and hurt animals as sacrifice and offerings. This is an indication of the condition of their heart. God knows our heart. In fact, in Malachi, the 1st problem is that the people don't even see that they need to return to God. We need to give God our best, otherwise we are stealing from God.

Your offering is supposed to make people know that something is happening, (Malachi 1:6 & Malachi 1:11) – we should be coming with intense happiness that we can give an offering to God that pleases the most high God! He wants us to be so joyous that others around us wonder why we are so happy. We have the opportunity to do something that not everyone has the opportunity to do for God! God wants His greatness to become clear and His bigness announced and demonstrated by your offerings! We must give cheerfully, for God loves a cheerful giver!