

# THE BEACON OF TRUTH

January 20, 2019

**“Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.” John 17:17**

# *Will a Man Rob God?* *Bro. Lynn Parker*

The setting for Malachi's great question can be summed up in this manner. Babylonian Captivity is no longer fresh on the minds of the Israelites. Jerusalem has been restored, the temple has been rebuilt and prosperity has replaced despair. No, they no longer serve Baal, but they are again in very real danger of leaving Jehovah God. The Jews go through the motions of ritualistic religion—saying and doing the right things in form—but their collective heart is just not set on fervent, zealous pursuit of holiness, righteousness, and love of God. Growing spiritually complacent and increasingly worldly, God's people fall down at the idols of pleasure, indifference, and materialism.

Rather than honoring God with their firstfruits—their best—Israel was indicted for offering to God “polluted bread” (Mal. 1:7) and sacrifices that were blind, lame, and sick (Mal. 1:8). The Law clearly commanded: “But whatsoever hath a blemish, that shall ye not offer: for it shall not be acceptable for you. And whosoever offereth a sacrifice of peace offerings unto the LORD to accomplish his vow, or a freewill offering in beeves (as in “bovines,” or “cattle,” TCG) or sheep, it shall be perfect to be accepted; there shall be no blemish therein” (Lev. 22:20-21).

In the midst of this message of admonition and rebuke comes the haunting question of Malachi 3:8: “Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings.”

No person in his right mind thinks of attempting to rob Ft. Knox of the gold stored there. Will man be so arrogant, so presumptuous, so irrational ... to rob Almighty God of that which belongs to Him? The answer, sadly, is “Yes.” Man has robbed God for centuries. The Israelites did it, modern man does it, and some members of the Lord’s body do it—often without a pang of conscience. Notice in Malachi 3:8-10 the salient points in this confrontation between Deity and Israel.

1. First, the accusation of sin: “Yet ye have robbed me.”
2. Second, the denial by God’s people: “Wherein have we robbed thee?”
3. Third, note the consequences of their sin: “Ye are cursed with a curse.”
4. Four, see the remedy of repentance: “Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse.”
5. Last, note the promise of blessing: “prove me now herewith, saith the LORD of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it.”

You do not have to dig too deeply to see the modern application of ancient principles set forth by the prophet Malachi. An entire society is enthralled with self-gratification. No, we're speaking not just of ancient Israel, but the contemporary United States as well! Indeed, "One (Cntd. on page 2)

**By the Numbers:**  
*Week of 1/13/18*  
*Contribution – \$2503*

*Attendance:*

*Sunday Bible Classes – 32*  
*Sunday Worship\* – 43*  
*Wednesday Night – 30*

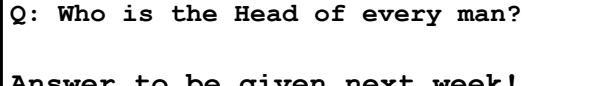
\*Total for the day

**Bible Trivia Question**



**Last Week's Answer: Christ (1**

Cor. 10:4).



Answer to be given next week:

**Sermon Spotlight:**  
AM - Not Able to Blush

1) What two verses in Jeremiah mention those who were not at all ashamed of

- 2) What verse in Ezra mentions one who did blush at Israel's sins?

1) What produces true gladness?

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**Schedule Of Services**

**Sunday**  
Bible Study 9:45 A.M.  
Worship 10:30 A.M. & 2:00 P.M.  
Wednesday Bible study 7:00 P.M.

**Website**  
[Beaconcfc.com](http://Beaconcfc.com) (under construction)

BEACON CHURCH OF CHRIST  
2326 JONESBORO ROAD  
MAIL: P.O. BOX 3057  
WEST MONROE, LA 71294

**WHAT MUST I DO TO BE SAVED**

1. Hear the Gospel (Jn. 20:30-31;  
Dm 10:17)

PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE

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**Elders**  
Bill Schooley 318-396-7296  
Tim Green 318-547-4026

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**incoming supporters**  
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**NEWS AND NOTES**  
**TO OUR GUESTS—A WARM WELCOME**

Thank you for coming today and please come back soon and often. If you have questions about the church of Christ, what is taught here, or the way we do anything please feel free to ask. Please fill out the Guest Register on the table in the foyer so we may have a record of your visit.

**REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYER**

Margie Tippen — Regina Simmons — Wanda Hendrix — Marcia Green — Jerry Tippen — Ruby Weaver — Wendy Traweek — Tim Green — Harold Myers — Joy Skipper — John & Ruth Coston — Stetson Ortega — Lindy Brown — Kaitlyn Wilson — Kathy Lawrence — Delton Spillers

**OTHER THINGS & UPCOMING ACTIVITIES**

- Congratulations to Ryan & Lacey Smith on the birth of their son, Parker Ryan, on January 17th! Baby and Momma are both doing very well. If you would like to help with meals for the Smiths, please coordinate this with Bettie Gayle.
- Monthly Fellowship Meal — Every fourth Sunday of the month unless otherwise noted.
- Youth & Young Adults — Game night at Chase & Lindsey’s house tonight at 5pm!

*(Continued from page 1)*

Nation Under God” has become a people that have no time for religion, even though righteousness would exalt it (Pro. 14:34). Hit the golf ball, fish the lake, make time for aerobics, take the two-week vacation, run the kids to Little League, but don’t you dare expect God to get anything but leftovers! It is tragic to see congregations barely make the same budget each year when the brethren comprising those congregation receive raises, take on more charge card payments, buy new cars, and live in finer houses. All the while, mission workers grovel for crumbs that fall from the rich man’s table and preachers cry for more workers to help in the kingdom. In many congregations, the various programs of work are supported by the same blessed few brethren. The majority don’t have the time—or perhaps the zeal—to serve God.

Don’t be too smug when judging ancient Israel. The Lord’s church needs to hear this lesson from Malachi. The Israelites are, at the time of Malachi’s work, the spiritual equivalent of the Laodiceans (Rev. 3:14ff) who were so selfdeluded and lukewarm they incurred the sternest of rebukes from the Lord. The Laodiceans were in denial, thinking themselves to be spiritual giants when the Lord portrayed them as “lukewarm.” Israel may have thought that “no one will notice” as they gave God the culls, but the fact is that God’s “eyes are upon the ways of man, and he seeth all his goings” (Job 34:21). Jesus told the Laodiceans, “I know thy works” (Rev. 3:15). God knows what money is in our hands, what effort we could be expending, what opportunities come our way, and what talent we have ...

The fact is that we can easily duplicate Israel’s sin in our own lives. Neglect (Jam. 4:17), indifference (Rev. 3:16), and love of the world (1 John 2:15-17) can incur the wrath of Heaven and withhold the blessings of God from our homes and congregations (see Jer. 5:25). God’s promise of blessings are conditional. The beauty of God’s message is that when we become “zealous and repent” (Rev. 3:19), God will open the windows of heaven and shower us with the blessings we need (Mal. 3:10; Mat. 6:33).

It is not enough to attend church services and pronounce yourself faithful. God requires the best from you, and He will accept nothing less. Serve Him joyfully, energetically. Giving sacrifice that cost little or nothing (2 Sam. 24:24) may be a popular way to ease the conscience but it’s also a sure road to hell.

Note: Let us be sure never to rob God of our offerings, our talents, our time, or our devotion. — TCG

***David’s Sacrifice in 2 Sam. 24:24***

***Chase Green***

Perhaps the closing line of the previous article may come across as “sharp” or difficult to bear, but it is truthful. Brother Parker’s article reminds us of the passage in 2 Samuel, a passage which I have not considered in a while. It reads, “And the king said unto Araunah, Nay; but I will surely buy it of thee at a price: neither will I offer burnt offerings unto the LORD my God of that which doth cost me nothing. So David bought the threshingfloor and the oxen for fifty shekels of silver.”

The context of this passage is dealing with the fact that David had sinned against the Lord by numbering the people of Israel, perhaps showing a lack of trust in God’s protection, or perhaps David’s pride over how powerful Israel had become (2 Sam. 24:1ff). Regardless, David was punished with three days of pestilence that killed many people in the land (2 Sam. 24:15).

What is extremely telling about sacrificial offerings in this circumstance is that David refused a handout from a man name Araunah. 2 Sam. 24:21-23: “And Araunah said, Wherefore is my lord the king come to his servant? And David said, To buy the threshingfloor of thee, to build an altar unto the LORD, that the plague may be stayed from the people. And Araunah said unto David, Let my lord the king take and offer up what seemeth good unto him: behold, here be oxen for burnt sacrifice, and threshing instruments and other instruments of the oxen for wood. All these things did Araunah, as a king, give unto the king. And Araunah said unto the king, The LORD thy God accept thee.”

In other words, Araunah was pleased to just let David have whatever oxen he needed for free, as well as any wood he needed for the altar. But David replied, “Nay; but I will surely **buy** it of thee **at a price**: neither will I offer burnt offerings unto the LORD my God of that which **doth cost me nothing**” (emphasis mine, TCG). David understood that sacrificial giving unto the Lord meant that he had better spend some money on the sacrifice! David goes on to pay 50 shekels of silver (about \$300) for the oxen and wood and then proceeds with the sacrifice.

What can we learn from this? We need to learn that if our giving is not a sacrificial amount, then it is not pleasing to God. While we don’t read about the term “tithe” in the New Testament, we do read that we are to give as we have been prospered (1 Cor. 16:2). Not only that, but we are to give cheerfully, not begrudgedly, and according to as we have purposed (planned) in our hearts (2 Cor. 9:7).

Thus, all of us need to from time to time assess our giving. Am I giving with a cheerful heart? Am I planning (budgeting) my giving? Am I giving sacrificially? All of these correct motives must be met in order to give in such a way as to not rob God.

With love, Chase

**THIS WEEK’S MEMORY VERSE**

“Wherefore they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder.”  
Matt. 19:6

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